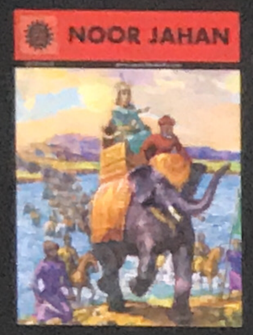
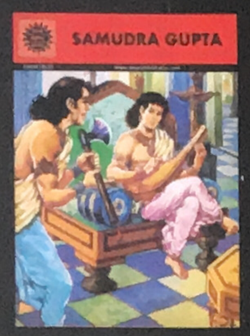
SHAH JAHAN

Prince Khurram was a favourite of his grandfather, Emperor Akbar, who saw in the young prince a reflection of himself. Akbar was not mistaken. Khurram proved himself to be a brave soldier, an able commander and an excellent strategist. He was certainly the natural heir to his father, Jahangir, who recognising his qualities gave him the title of Shah Jahan or Ruler of the World. But his stepmother, Noor Jahan, had other plans.

OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:





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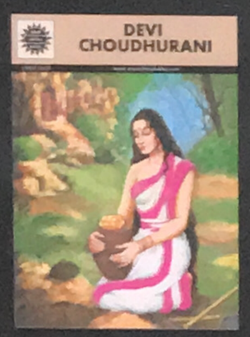

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BRAVEHEARTS

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

SHAH JAHAN

EMPEROR, SOLDIER, MASTER BUILDER

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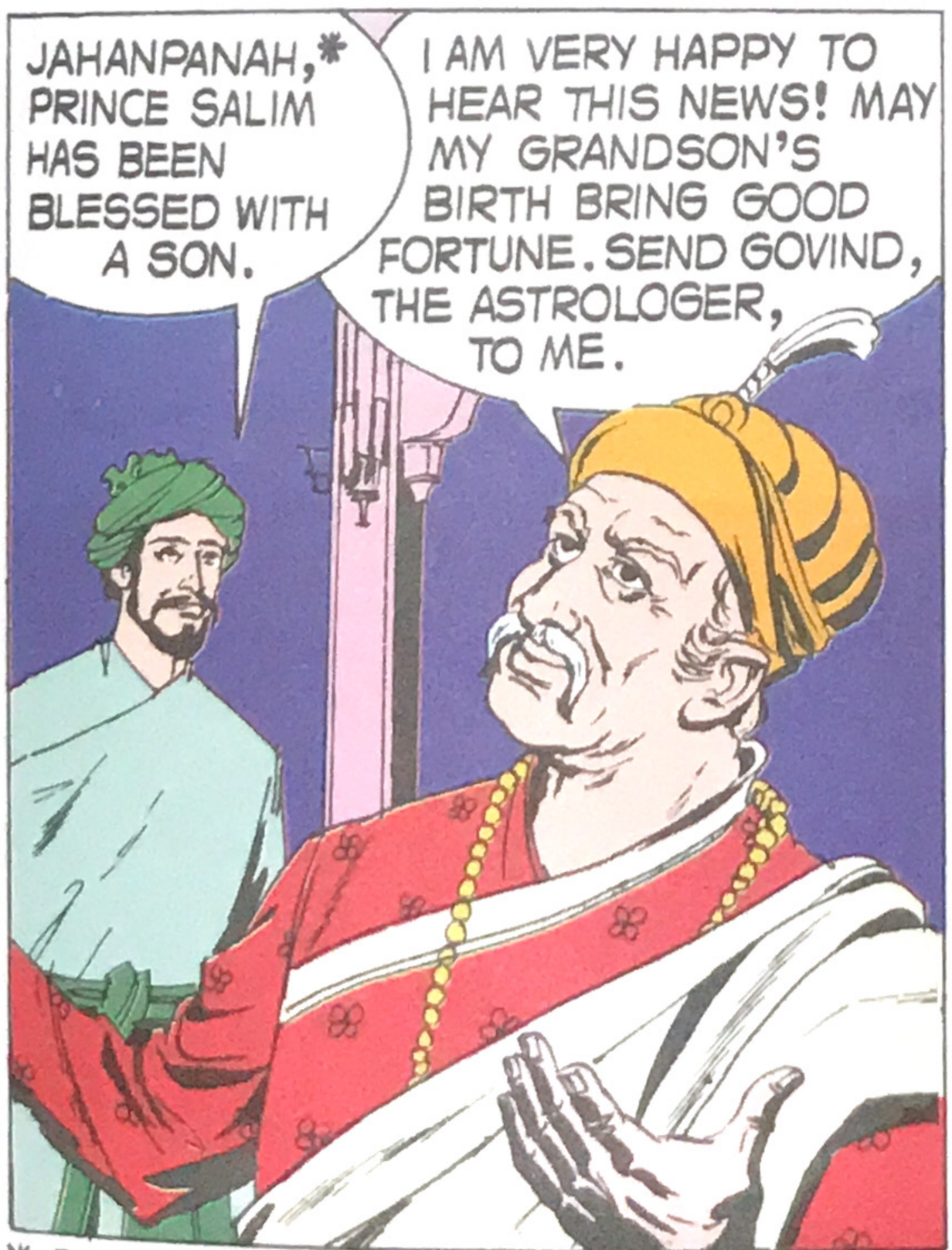
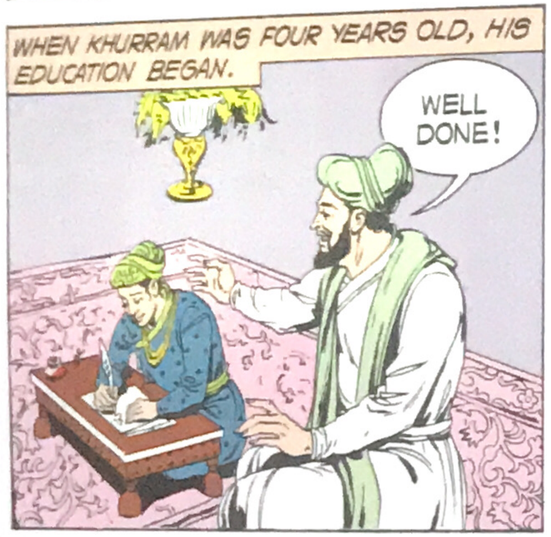
SHAH JAHAN

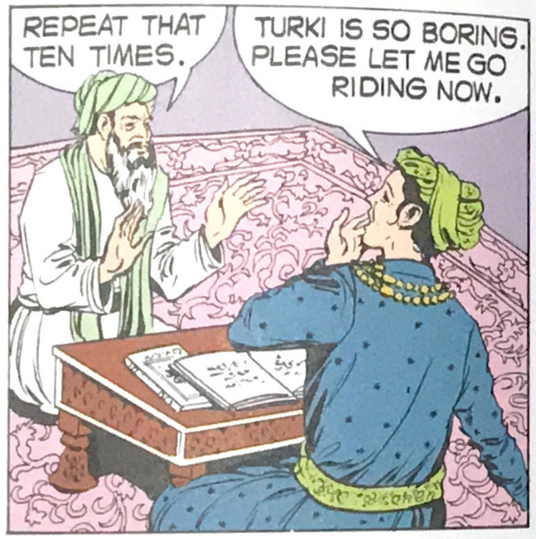
ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 15, 1592, AT LAHORE, A MESSENGER CAME HURRYING TO EMPEROR AKBAR WITH GOOD NEWS.



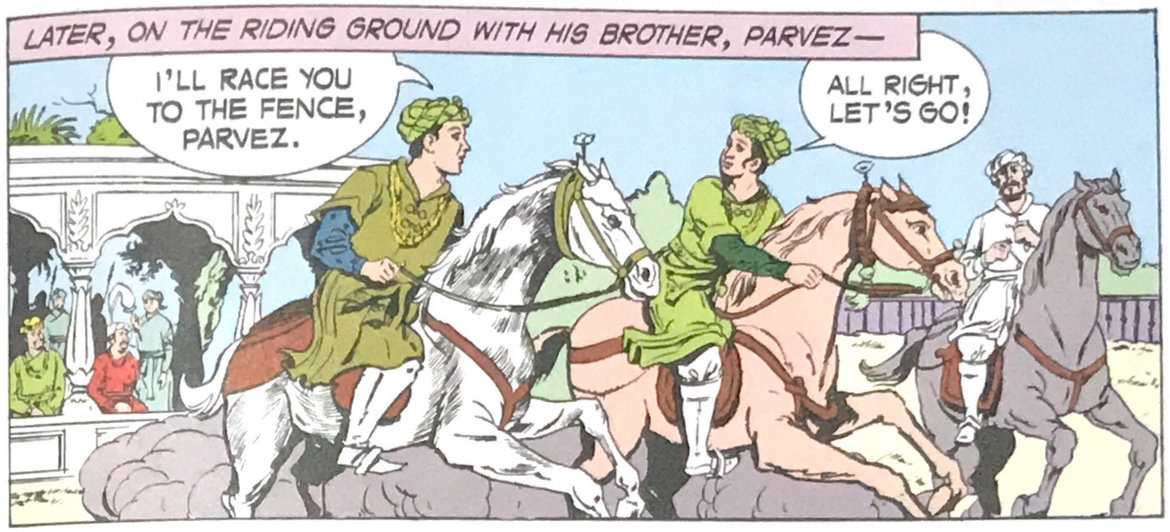
* REFUGE OF THE UNIVERSE

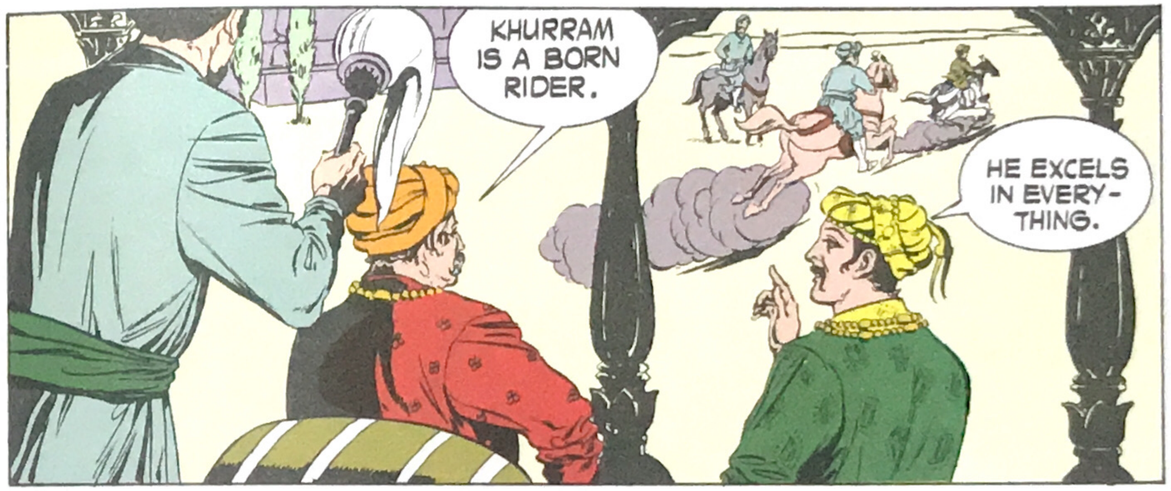
WHEN THE PRINCE WAS SIX DAYS OLD—
FATHER, PLEASE NAME MY SON.
I SHALL NAME HIM KHURRAM, FOR HE BRINGS JOY TO OUR FAMILY.


WHEN KHURRAM WAS FOUR YEARS OLD, HIS EDUCATION BEGAN.
WELL DONE!


REPEAT THAT TEN TIMES.
TURKI IS SO BORING. PLEASE LET ME GO RIDING NOW.

YOU WANT TO READ THE 'BABURNAMA' AND LEARN FROM YOUR FAMOUS GREAT, GREAT GRAND-FATHER, DON'T YOU? THEN YOU MUST PAY MORE ATTENTION TO TURKI.
ALL RIGHT, I WILL.

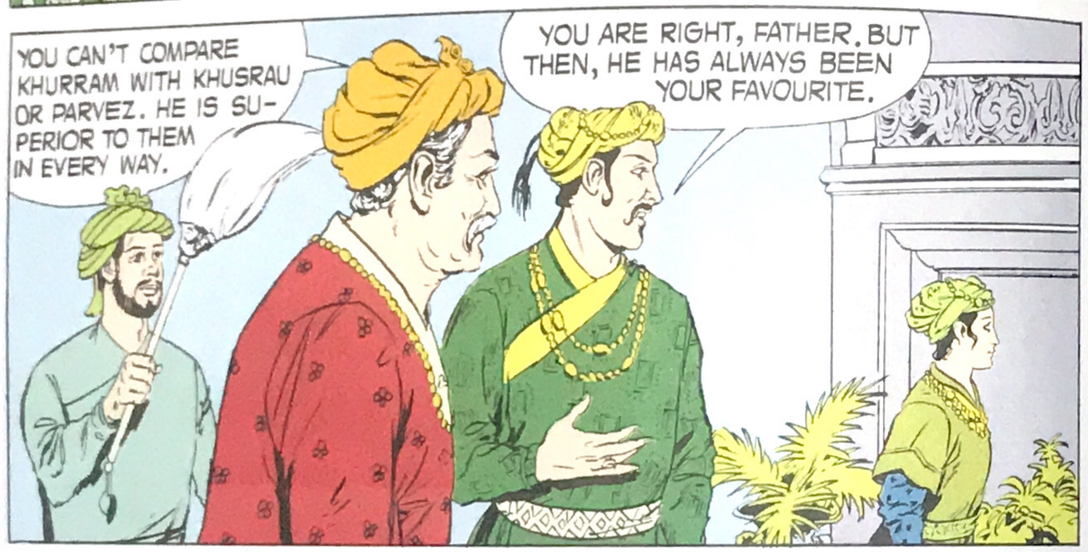

LATER, ON THE RIDING GROUND WITH HIS BROTHER, PARVEZ—
I'LL RACE YOU TO THE FENCE, PARVEZ.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!


KHURRAM IS A BORN RIDER.
HE EXCELS IN EVERY-THING.

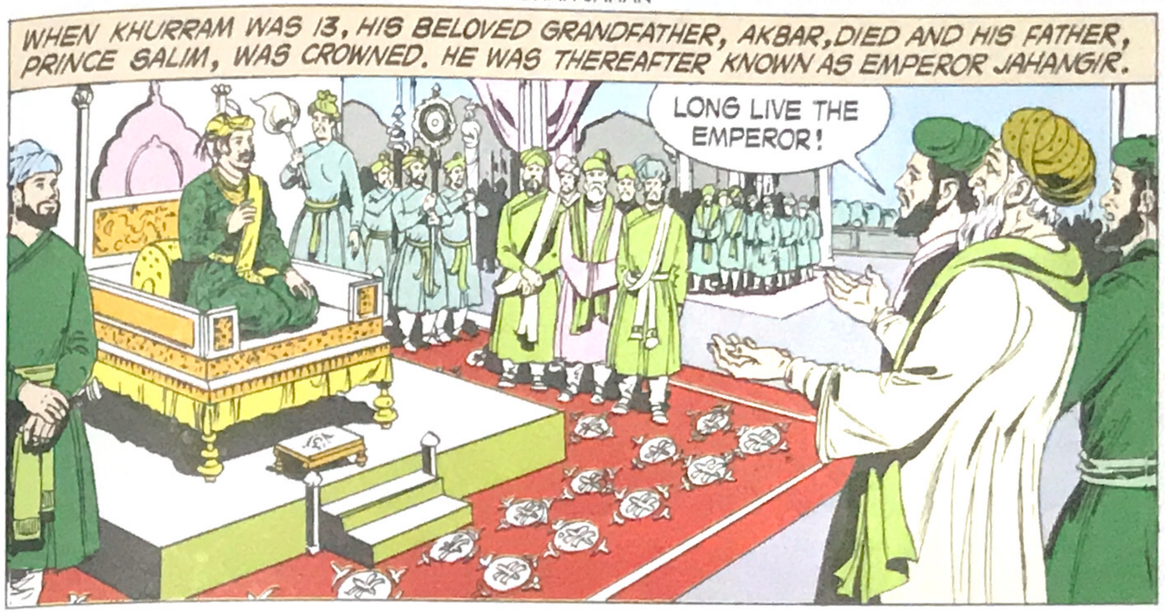
ON ANOTHER DAY WITH HIS ELDEST BROTHER, KHUSRAU—
COME ON. KHUSRAU, LET'S HAVE A DUEL!
I'LL TAKE THE CHALLENGE. ON YOUR GUARD!

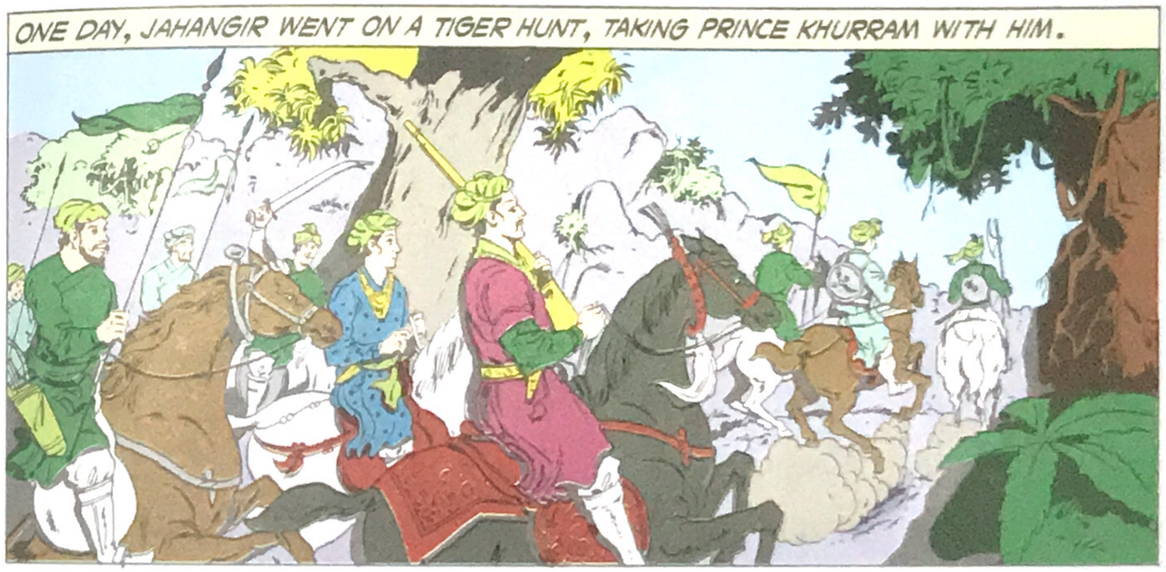
AFTER THE DUEL—
YOU WILL BE A GREAT SWORDSMAN, KHURRAM.

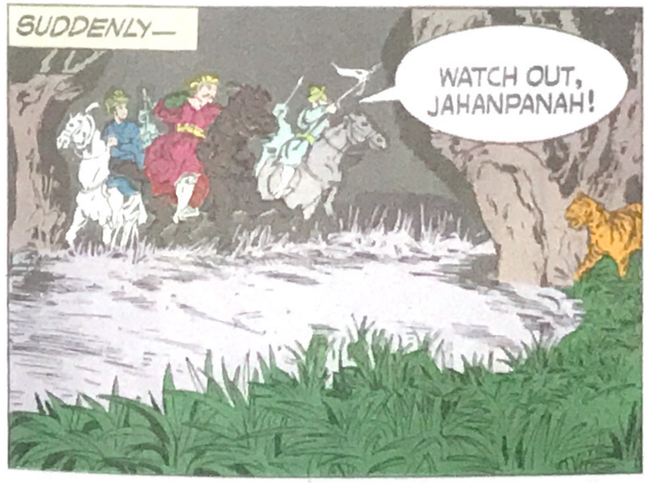
BUT WILL I BE A GREAT RULER LIKE YOU?
YES, KHURRAM. YOU WILL BE KING OF THE WORLD!

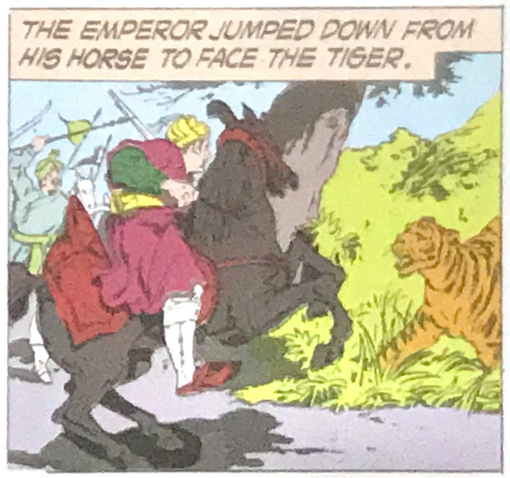

YOU CAN'T COMPARE KHURRAM WITH KHUSRAU OR PARVEZ. HE IS SUPERIOR TO THEM IN EVERY WAY.
YOU ARE RIGHT, FATHER. BUT THEN, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE.

THAT'S BECAUSE HE TAKES AFTER ME!


WHEN KHURRAM WAS 13, HIS BELOVED GRANDFATHER, AKBAR, DIED AND HIS FATHER, PRINCE SALIM, WAS CROWNED. HE WAS THEREAFTER KNOWN AS EMPEROR JAHANGIR.
LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!

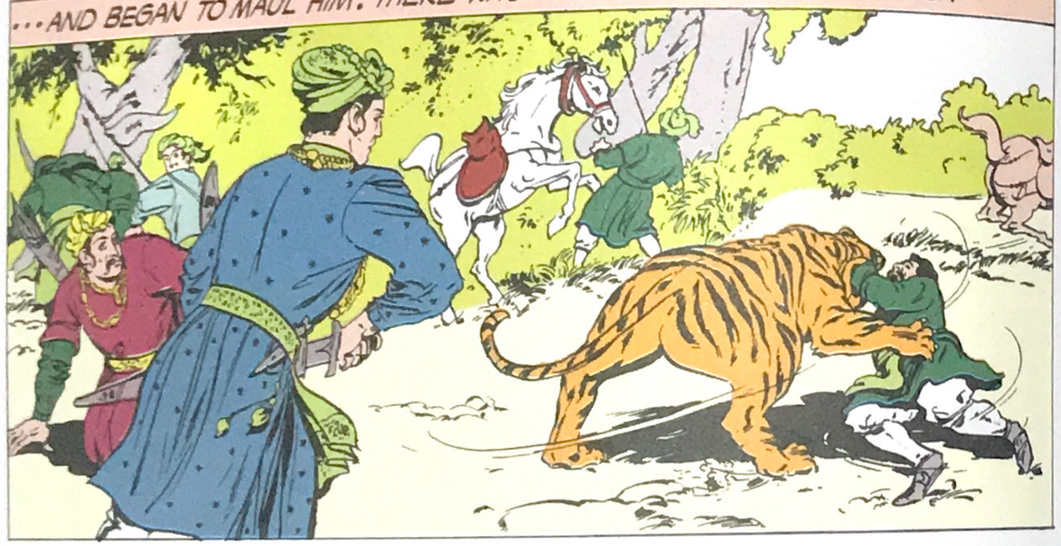

ONE DAY, JAHANGIR WENT ON A TIGER HUNT, TAKING PRINCE KHURRAM WITH HIM.


SUDDENLY—
WATCH OUT, JAHANPANAH!


THE EMPEROR JUMPED DOWN FROM HIS HORSE TO FACE THE TIGER.

THEN HE TOOK QUICK AIM AND FIRED — BUT HE MISSED.

.HE WOUNDED AND ANGRY TIGER LEAPT ON THE NEAREST MAN...


...AND BEGAN TO MAUL HIM. THERE WAS UTTER PANIC AND CONFUSION—

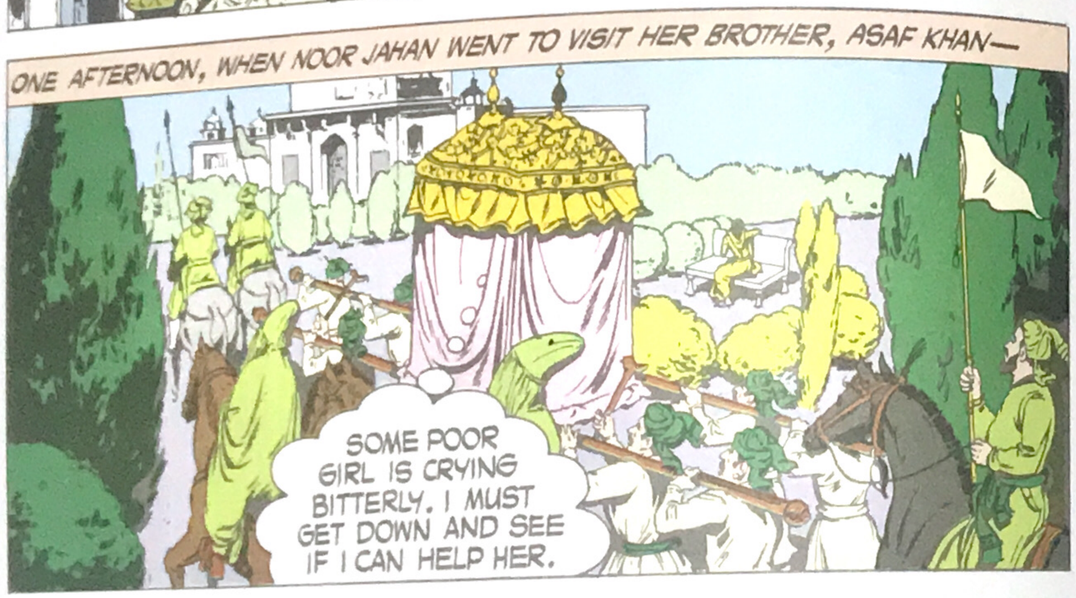
QUICK AS LIGHTNING, KHURRAM SPRANG TO ACTION—

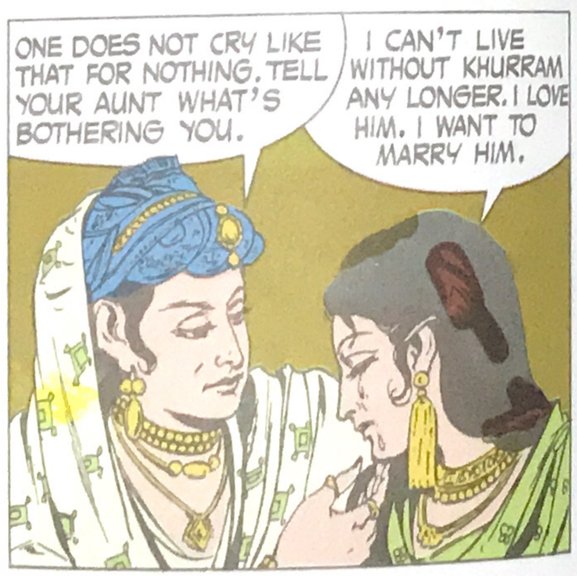
THE ENRAGED TIGER RELEASED HIS VICTIM AND PREPARED TO SPRING UPON THE PRINCE...

...BUT .. THE NICK OF TIME ONE OF THE NOBLES SHOT HIM DEAD.

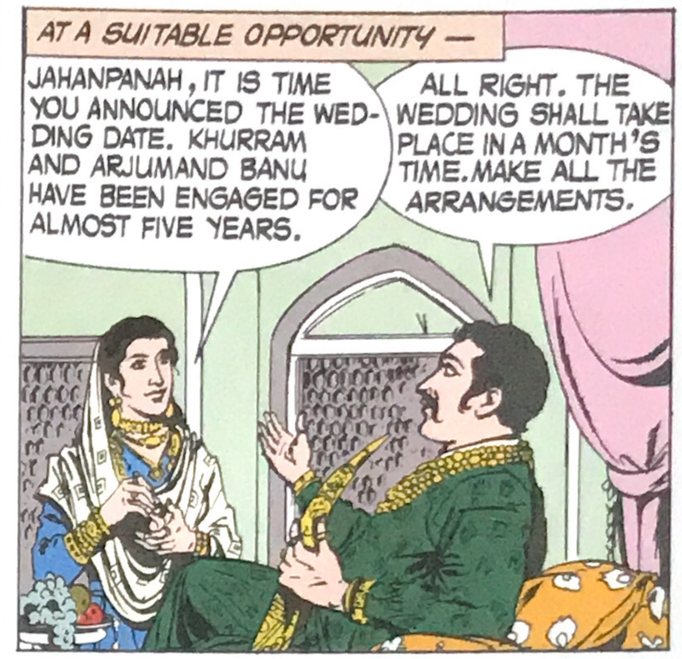
KHURRAM KNELT BESIDE THE WOUNDED MAN—
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES, THANKS TO YOU, PRINCE.

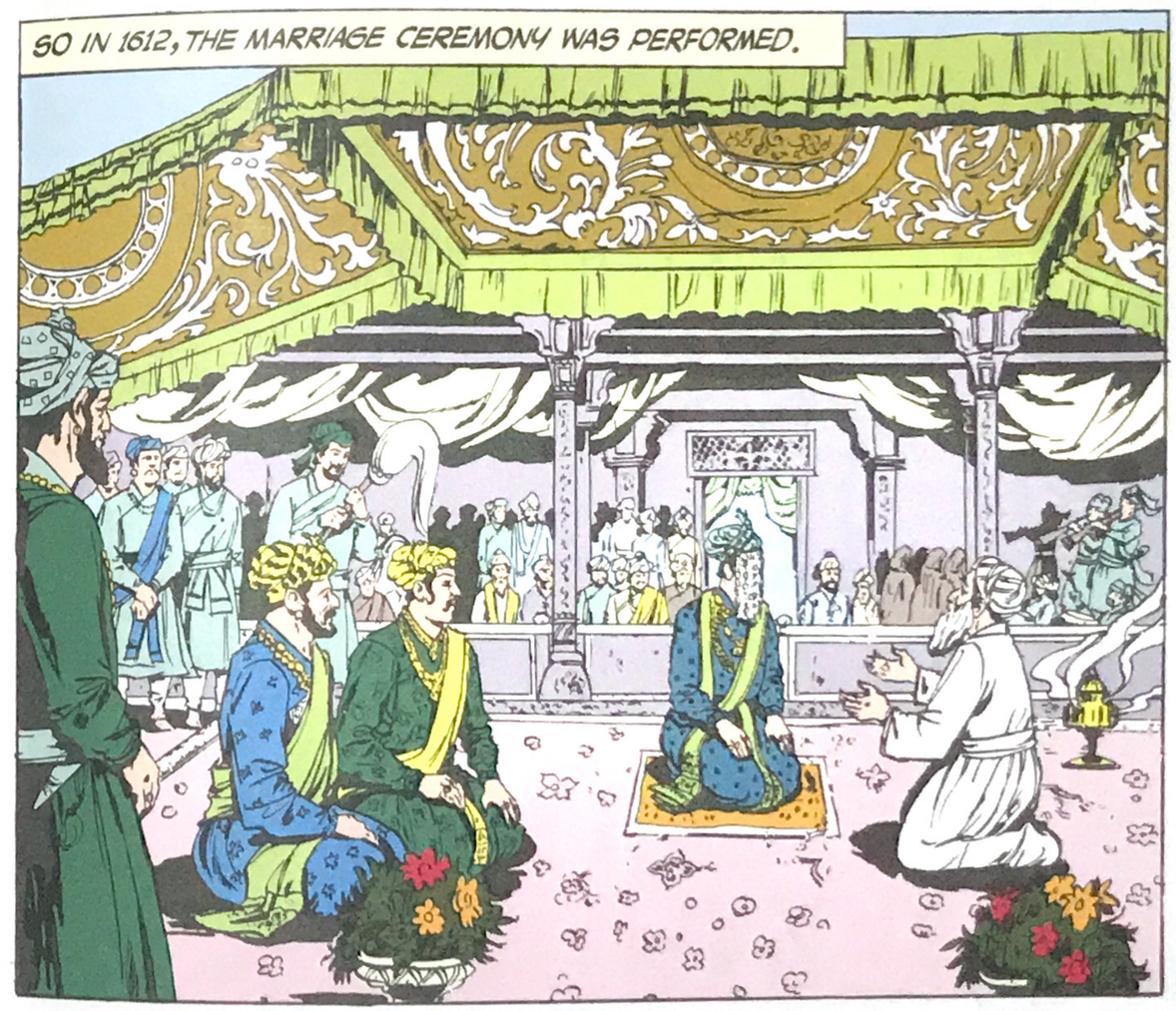
BRAVO, MY SON!





* JAHANGIR'S YOUNGEST SON





ONE DAY, ABOUT TWO YEARS LATER—
THAT LITTLE STATE OF MEWAR IS A THORN IN OUR FLESH. NEITHER PARVEZ NOR MY GENERALS SEEM ABLE TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY THERE.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE COMMAND TO KHURRAM, MY LORD? HE MAY SUCCEED WHERE ALL THE OTHERS HAVE FAILED.

THAT SAME EVENING—
CAN YOU GUESS WHY THE EMPEROR HAS SUMMONED ME? I AM THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE MEWAR CAMPAIGN!
OH, NO, KHURRAM! YOU'LL BE FIGHTING THOSE FIERCE RAJPUTS, THE SISODIAS! EVEN AKBAR COULD NOT SUBDUE RANA PRATAP.

THAT'S TRUE. BUT I WILL BE FIGHTING HIS SON, RANA AMAR SINGH.
RANA PRATAP MADE AMAR SINGH PROMISE ETERNAL ENMITY WITH THE MUGHALS! I FEEL VERY WORRIED.

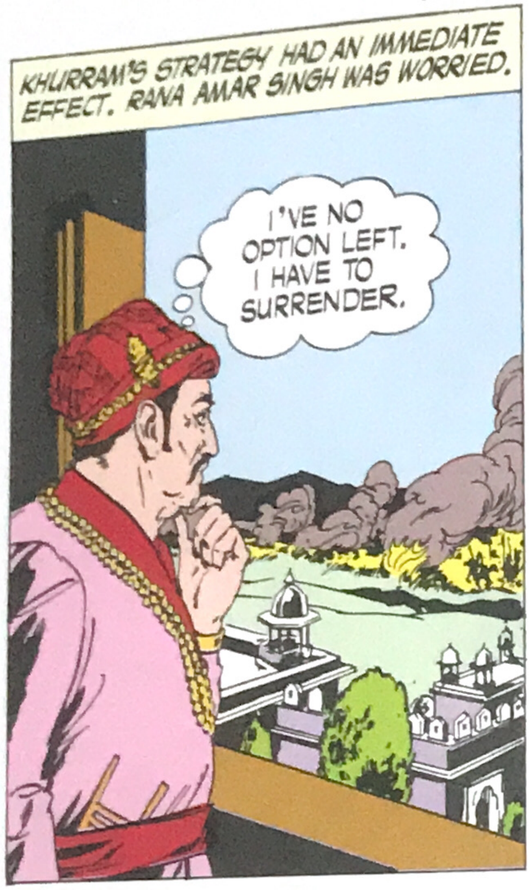
DO NOT WORRY, BELOVED. IT'S MY CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF.
MAY ALLAH GIVE YOU VICTORY AND RETURN YOU SAFELY TO ME!

EARLY IN 1614, KHURRAM LEFT FOR MEWAR...

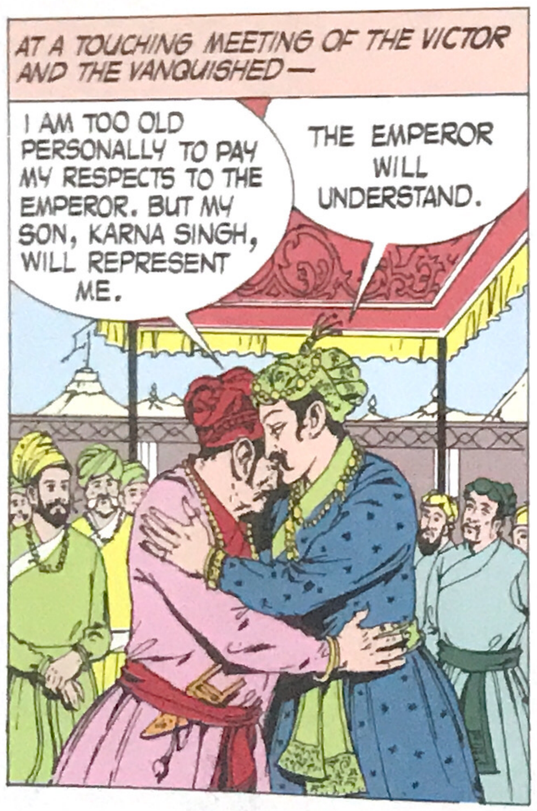
...AND LAID SIEGE TO CHITOR.

BUT THE RAJPUTS HELD ON TO THEIR POSITION.
GENERALS! THIS WAR HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH. WE CAN'T ALLOW SUCH A TINY STATE TO DEFY THE MIGHT OF THE MUGHALS!

DRASTIC ACTION IS CALLED FOR! WE SHALL CUT OFF THEIR SUPPLIES AND BURN THEIR CROPS! THAT WILL STARVE THEM INTO SUBMISSION.


KHURRAM'S STRATEGY HAD AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT. RANA AMAR SINGH WAS WORRIED.
I'VE NO OPTION LEFT. I HAVE TO SURRENDER.

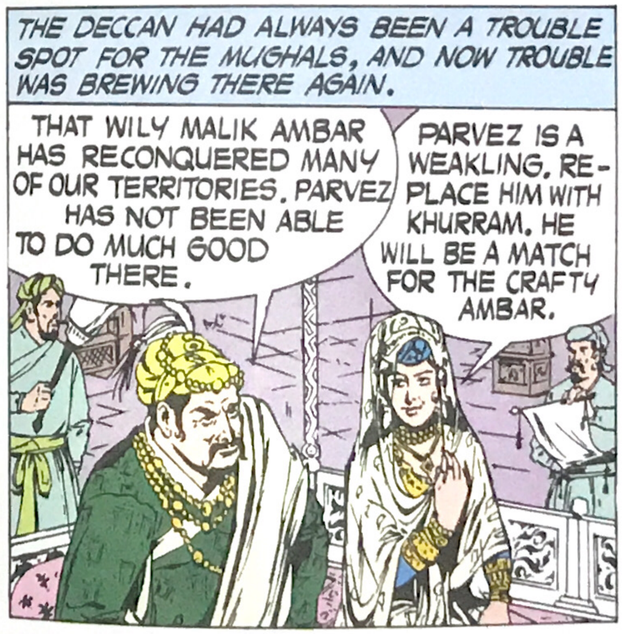
THE RANA SENT AN ENVOY TO KHURRAM.
PRINCE, RANA AMAR SINGH OF MEWAR SUES FOR PEACE.


AT A TOUCHING MEETING OF THE VICTOR AND THE VANQUISHED—
I AM TOO OLD PERSONALLY TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE EMPEROR. BUT MY SON, KARNA SINGH, WILL REPRESENT ME.
THE EMPEROR WILL UNDERSTAND.

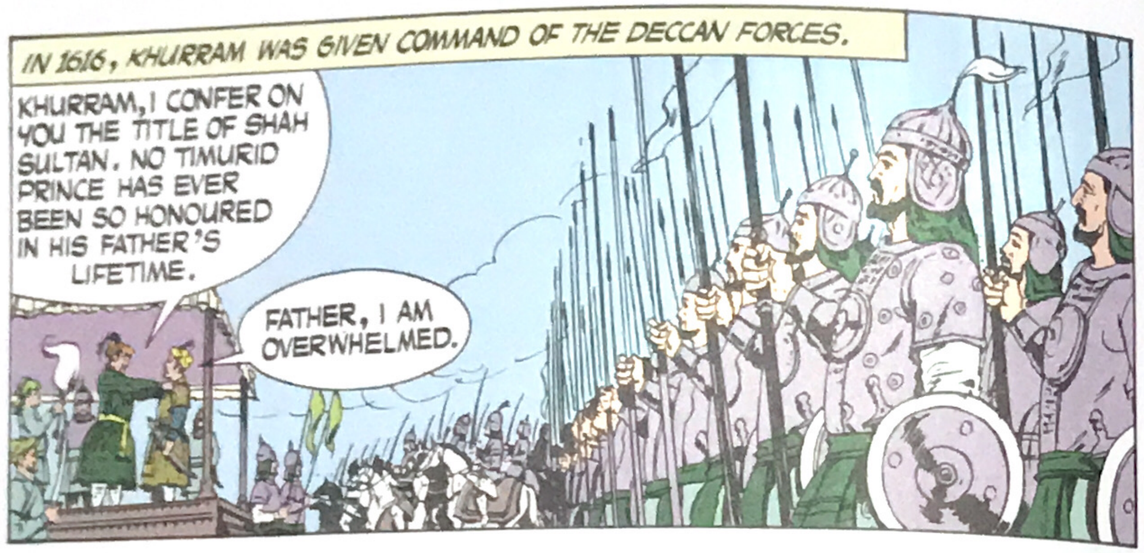
THE PRINCE RETURNED WITH HIS VICTORIOUS TROOPS.
WELCOME, KHURRAM!

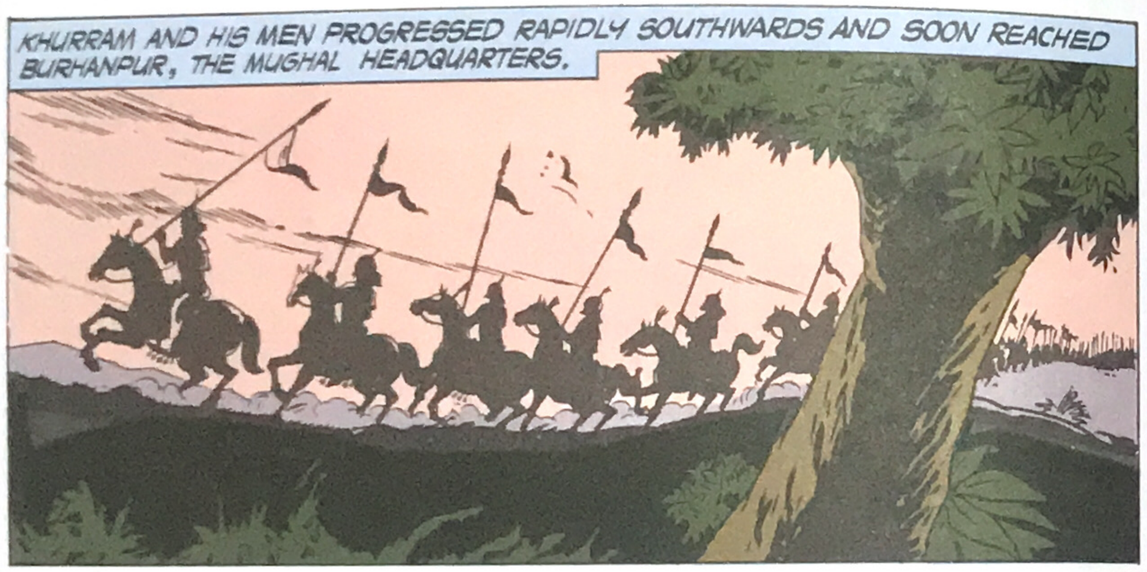
I HAVE RAISED YOUR RANK TO 15,000 INFANTRY AND 8,000 CAVALRY.
THIS MEANS I AM NOW THE EQUAL OF PARVEZ IN RANK.

AS SOON AS THE WELCOMING CEREMONIES WERE OVER, KHURRAM RETIRED TO HIS PRIVATE APARTMENTS—
WELCOME HOME, MY LORD! I AM SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AND SO PROUD OF YOUR GREAT VICTORY!
HOW I HAVE MISSED YOU, MY BELOVED! AND IS THIS LITTLE JAHANARA? SHE IS AS LOVELY AS YOU ARE!


THE DECCAN HAD ALWAYS BEEN A TROUBLE SPOT FOR THE MUGHALS, AND NOW TROUBLE WAS BREWING THERE AGAIN.
THAT WILY MALIK AMBAR HAS RECONQUERED MANY OF OUR TERRITORIES. PARVEZ HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO MUCH GOOD THERE.
PARVEZ IS A WEAKLING. REPLACE HIM WITH KHURRAM. HE WILL BE A MATCH FOR THE CRAFTY AMBAR.

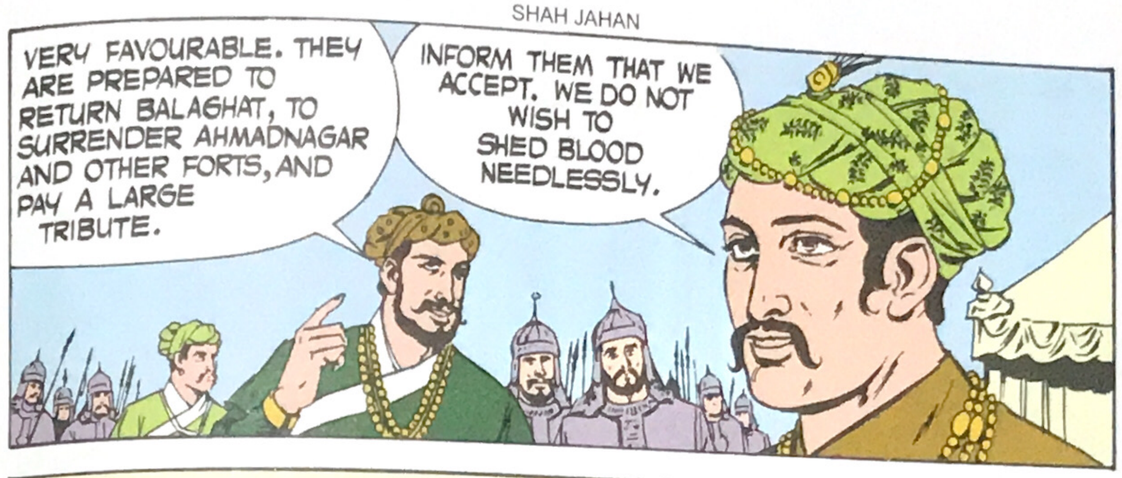
AS ALWAYS YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ANSWER, MY QUEEN.
IF HE IS VICTORIOUS, IT WILL BRING HIM AND MY NIECE ONE STEP NEARER THE THRONE.

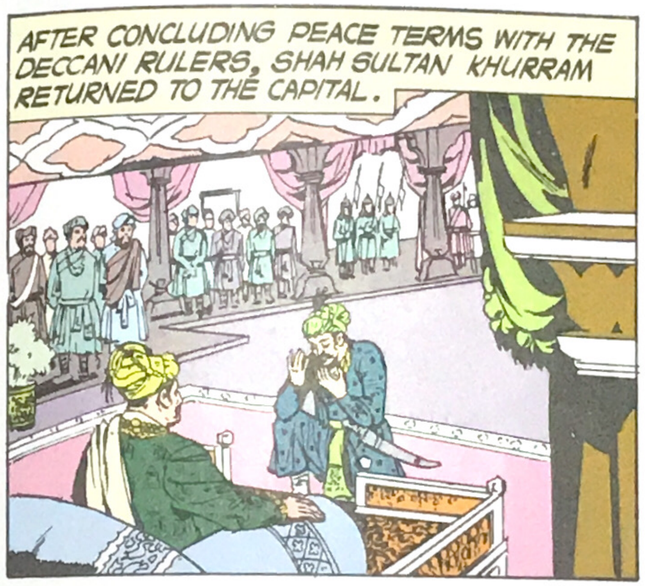

IN 1616, KHURRAM WAS GIVEN COMMAND OF THE DECCAN FORCES.
KHURRAM, I CONFER ON YOU THE TITLE OF SHAH SULTAN. NO TIMURID PRINCE HAS EVER BEEN SO HONOURED IN HIS FATHER'S LIFETIME.
FATHER, I AM OVERWHELMED.


KHURRAM AND HIS MEN PROGRESSED RAPIDLY SOUTHWARDS AND SOON REACHED BURHANPUR, THE MUGHAL HEADQUARTERS.

THE MUGHAL GENERAL, MAHABAT KHAN, GAVE HIM A ROYAL WELCOME —
I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, PRINCE.

PRINCE, THE DECCANI RULERS HAVE TAKEN FRIGHT AT YOUR APPROACH. THEY ARE BEGGING FOR PEACE.
ON WHAT TERMS?

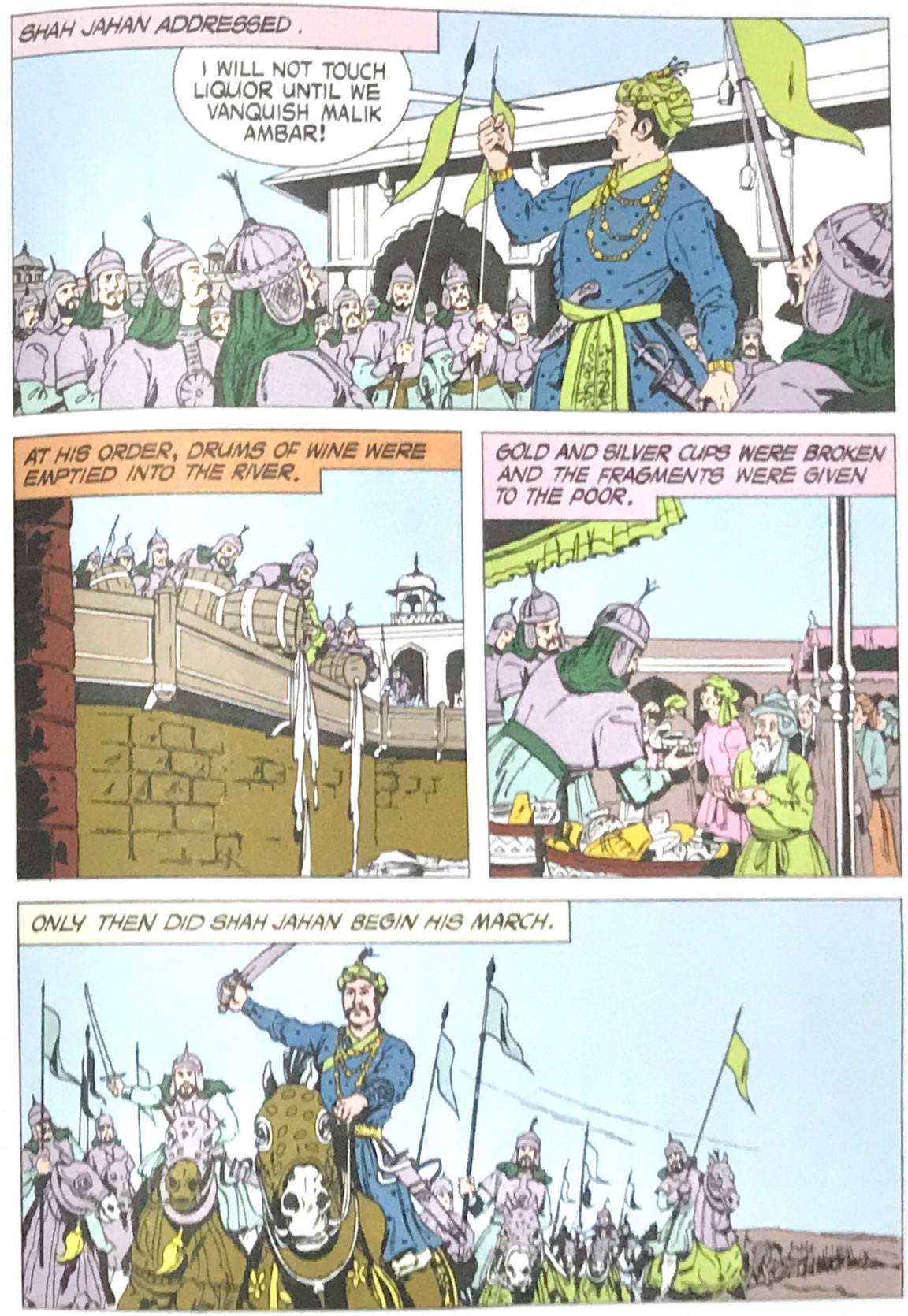

VERY FAVOURABLE. THEY ARE PREPARED TO RETURN BALAGHAT, TO SURRENDER AHMADNAGAR AND OTHER FORTS, AND PAY A LARGE TRIBUTE.
INFORM THEM THAT WE ACCEPT. WE DO NOT WISH TO SHED BLOOD NEEDLESSLY.


AFTER CONCLUDING PEACE TERMS WITH THE DECCANI RULERS, SHAH SULTAN KHURRAM RETURNED TO THE CAPITAL.

MY STAR OF GOOD FORTUNE, I NAME YOU SHAH JAHAN, KING OF THE WORLD.
THANK YOU, FATHER.

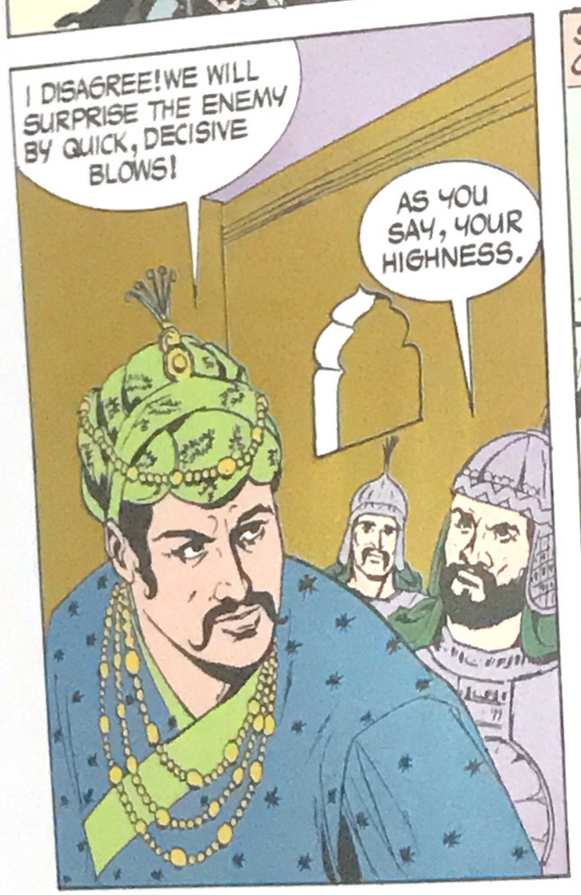
AND AS A REWARD FOR YOUR GREAT SERVICES, YOUR RANK IS RAISED TO 30,000 INFANTRY AND 20,000 CAVALRY.
I HAVE OUT-STRIPPED MY BROTHERS IN RANK.

A FEW DAYS LATER. NOOR JAHAN GAVE A VICTORY PARTY FOR THE CONQUERING HERO.
WHAT MAGNIFICENCE! MY AUNT DOTES ON YOU AS MUCH AS YOUR FATHER DOES! OH, I AM THE HAPPIEST AND LUCKIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD!
A FEW YEARS LATER—
THE CRAFTY MALIK AMBAR IS AT HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN. WILL YOU TACKLE HIM, MY SON?
MY SERVICES ARE AT YOUR COMMAND, JAHANPANAH.
ON LEAVING THE PALACE—
THIS IS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT CAMPAIGN. I MUST DO SOMETHING DRAMATIC TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF MY MISSION TO THE DECCAN.
I HAVE AN IDEA! I WILL DO WHAT BABUR DID BEFORE THE BATTLE OF KHANUA.


SHAH JAHAN ADDRESSED.
I WILL NOT TOUCH LIQUOR UNTIL WE VANQUISH MALIK AMBAR!
AT HIS ORDER, DRUMS OF WINE WERE EMPTIED INTO THE RIVER.
GOLD AND SILVER CUPS WERE BROKEN AND THE FRAGMENTS WERE GIVEN TO THE POOR.
ONLY THEN DID SHAH JAHAN BEGIN HIS MARCH.

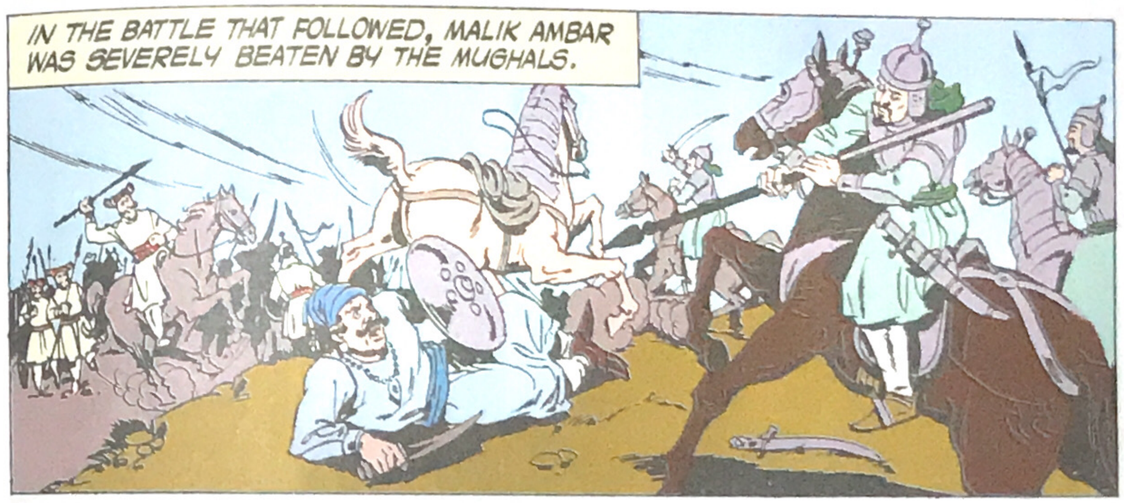
MEANWHILE IN THE DECCAN THE MUGHAL FORCES WERE ON THE RETREAT, PURSUED BY MALIK AMBAR'S CAVALRY—

WHEN SHAH JAHAN REACHED BURHANPUR, HE STOPPED TO HOLD A COUNCIL OF WAR.
IT LOOKS BAD. WE MUST DECIDE QUICKLY ON OUR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION.
WE ARE OUTNUMBERED AND OUTMANOEUVRED. IT WOULD BE BEST TO LIE LOW TILL AFTER THE MONSOON.

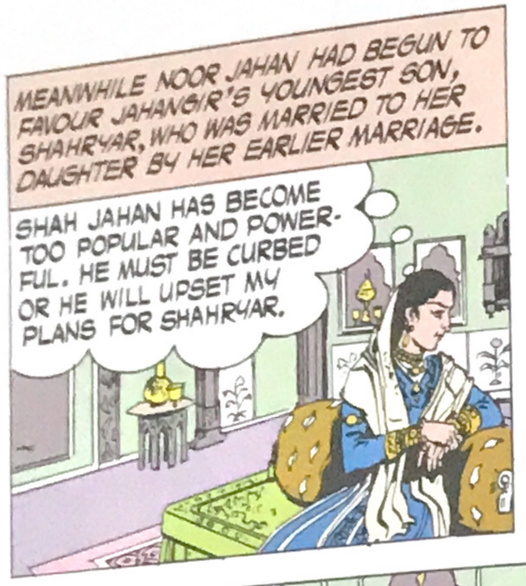

I DISAGREE! WE WILL SURPRISE THE ENEMY BY QUICK, DECISIVE BLOWS!
AS YOU SAY, YOUR HIGHNESS.

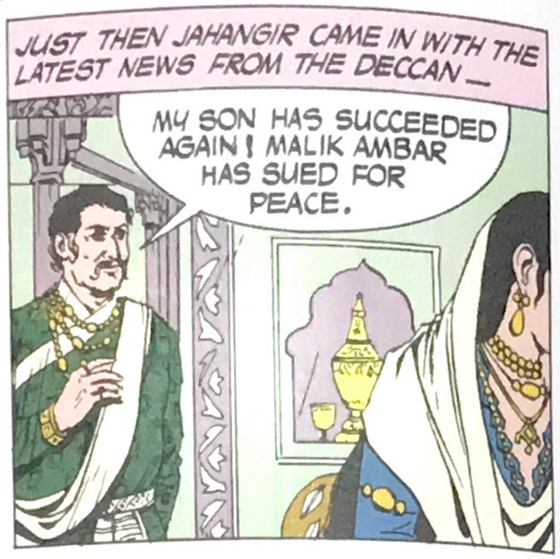
SUCCESS MADE MALIK AMBAR COMPLACENT.
I HEAR SHAH JAHAN HAS BEEN ADVISED BY HIS GENERALS TO RETREAT.
WHAT ELSE CAN HE DO?

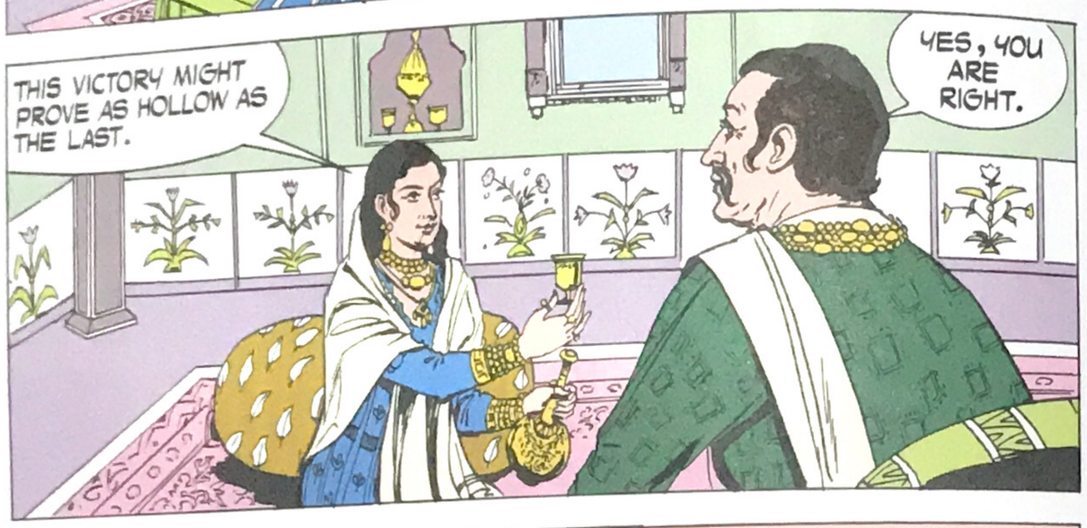
JUST THEN A MESSENGER CAME RUSHING IN.
THE MUGHALS ARE HERE! IT'S AN ATTACK!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

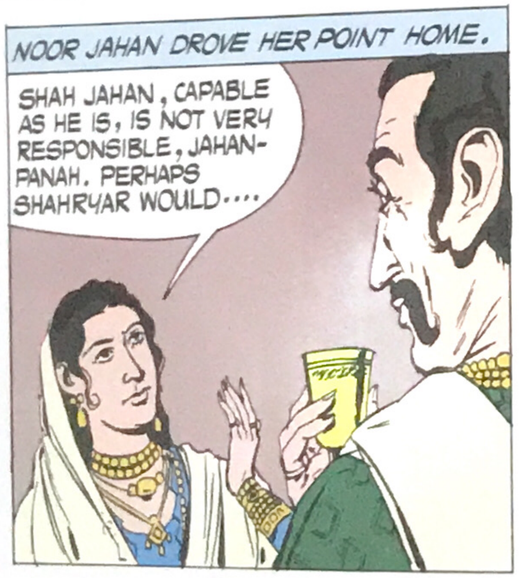

IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, MALIK AMBAR WAS SEVERELY BEATEN BY THE MUGHALS.

SHAH JAHAN'S SURPRISE TACTICS HAD PAID OFF.
MALIK AMBAR HAS AGREED TO SURRENDER ALL OUR TERRITORIES IN THE DECCAN AND TO PAY 50,000 RUPEES AS TRIBUTE.
GOD BE THANKED AND MAY PEACE PREVAIL.

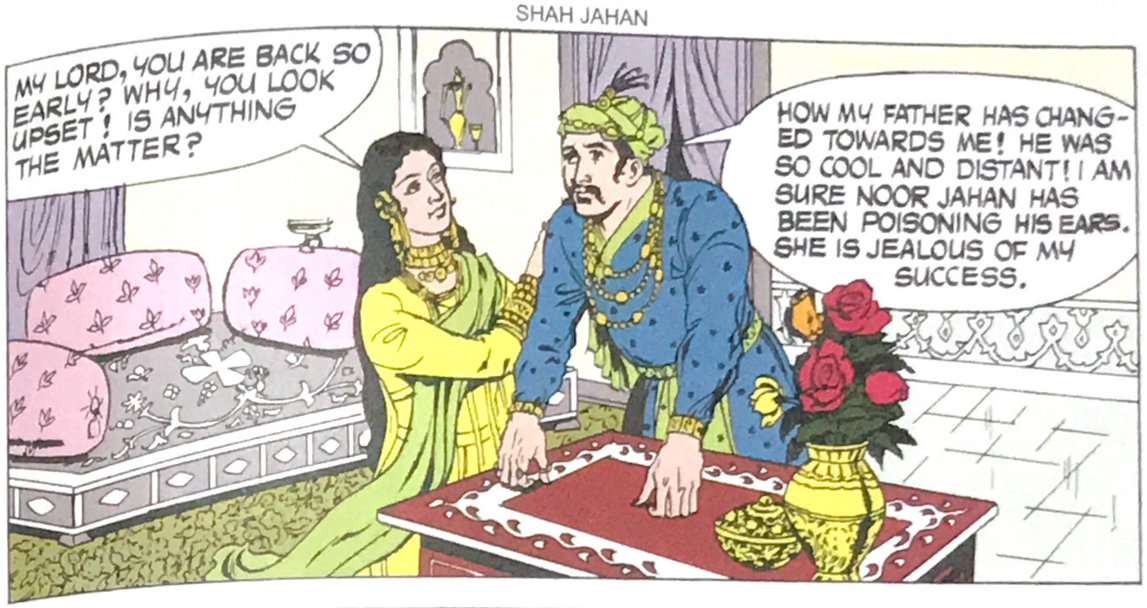

MEANWHILE NOOR JAHAN HAD BEGUN TO FAVOUR JAHANGIR'S YOUNGEST SON, SHAHRYAR, WHO WAS MARRIED TO HER DAUGHTER BY HER EARLIER MARRIAGE.
SHAH JAHAN HAS BECOME TOO POPULAR AND POWERFUL. HE MUST BE CURBED OR HE WILL UPSET MY PLANS FOR SHAHRYAR.

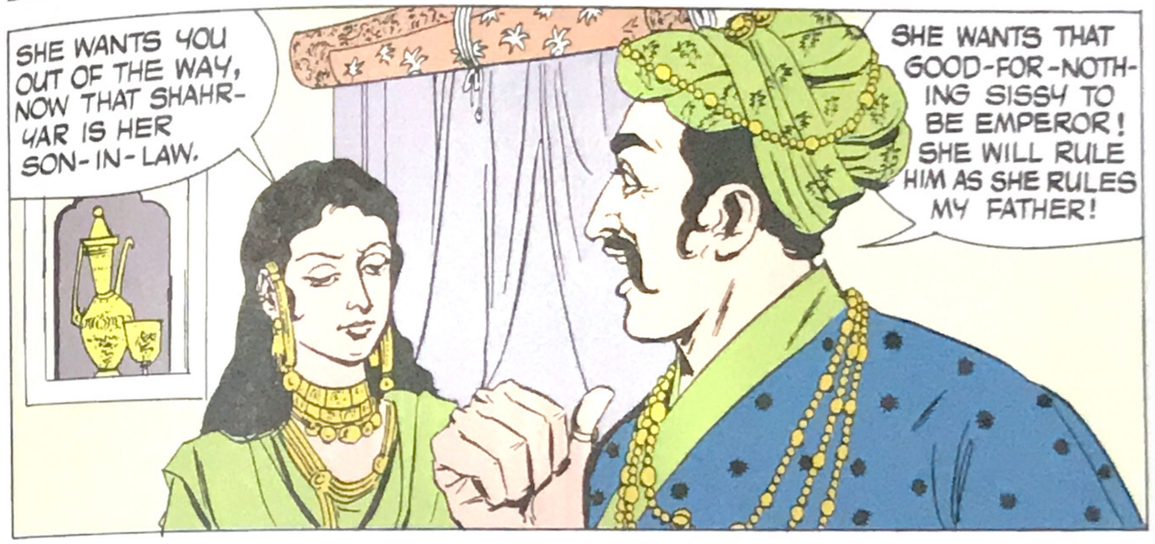

JUST THEN JAHANGIR CAME IN WITH THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE DECCAN —
MY SON HAS SUCCEEDED AGAIN! MALIK AMBAR HAS SUED FOR PEACE.


THIS VICTORY MIGHT PROVE AS HOLLOW AS THE LAST.
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.

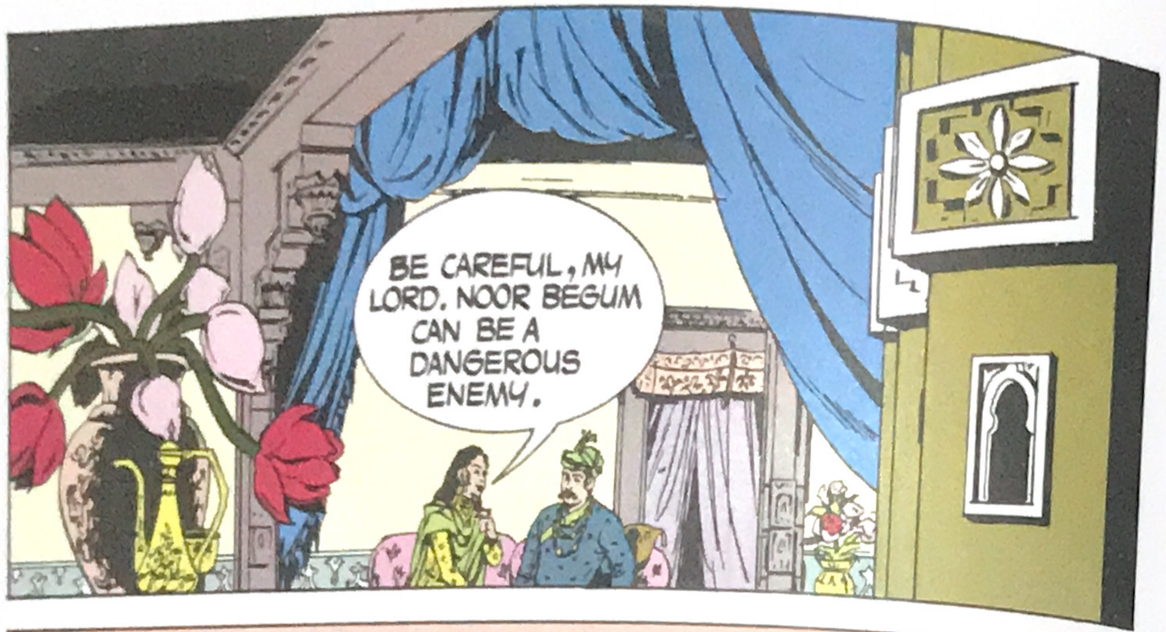

NOOR JAHAN DROVE HER POINT HOME.
SHAH JAHAN, CAPABLE AS HE IS, IS NOT VERY RESPONSIBLE, JAHANPANAH. PERHAPS SHAHRYAR WOULD....

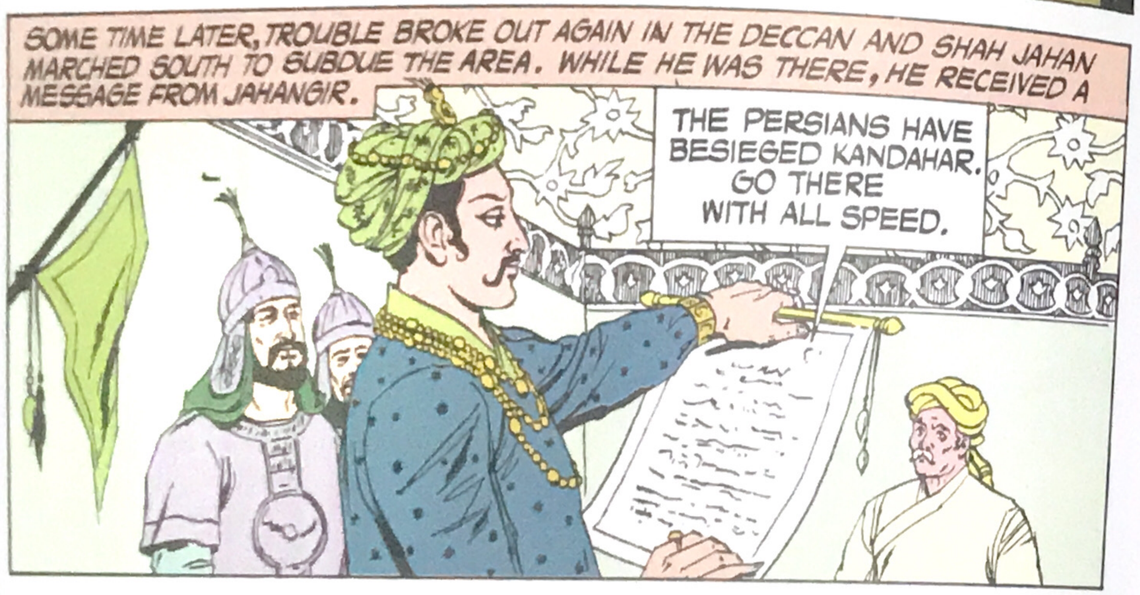
INFLUENCED BY NOOR JAHAN, JAHANGIR OFFERED A LUKEWARM RECEPTION TO THE HOMECOMING SON.
IT WAS A GREAT VICTORY, FATHER.
LET US HOPE IT LEADS TO AN ENDURING PEACE THIS TIME.

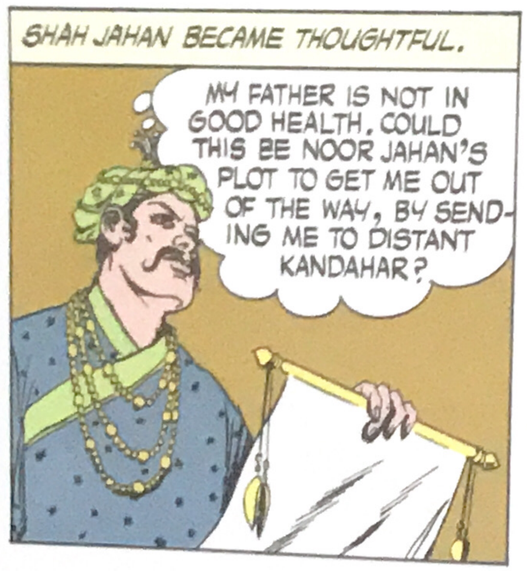

MY LORD, YOU ARE BACK SO EARLY? WHY, YOU LOOK UPSET! IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
HOW MY FATHER HAS CHANGED TOWARDS ME! HE WAS SO COOL AND DISTANT! I AM SURE NOOR JAHAN HAS BEEN POISONING HIS EARS. SHE IS JEALOUS OF MY SUCCESS.

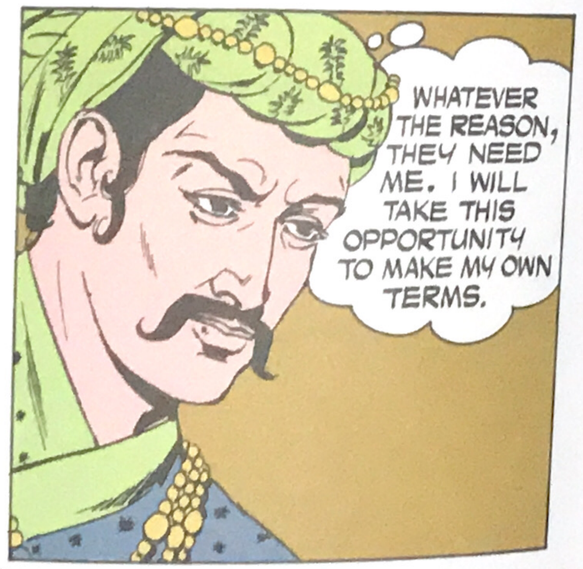

SHE WANTS YOU OUT OF THE WAY, NOW THAT SHAHRYAR IS HER SON-IN-LAW.
SHE WANTS THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SISSY TO BE EMPEROR! SHE WILL RULE HIM AS SHE RULES MY FATHER!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTS. TO RULE FOR EVER.
WELL, I WON'T LET HER. I'LL FIGHT HER AND I'LL WIN.


BE CAREFUL, MY LORD. NOOR BEGUM CAN BE A DANGEROUS ENEMY.

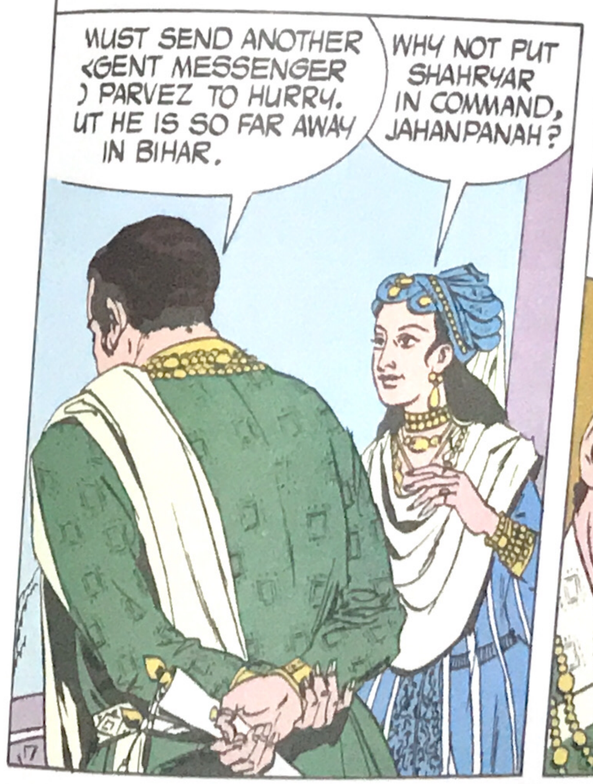

SOME TIME LATER, TROUBLE BROKE OUT AGAIN IN THE DECCAN AND SHAH JAHAN MARCHED SOUTH TO SUBDUE THE AREA. WHILE HE WAS THERE, HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM JAHANGIR.
THE PERSIANS HAVE BESIEGED KANDAHAR. GO THERE WITH ALL SPEED.


SHAH JAHAN BECAME THOUGHTFUL.
MY FATHER IS NOT IN GOOD HEALTH. COULD THIS BE NOOR JAHAN'S PLOT TO GET ME OUT OF THE WAY, BY SENDING ME TO DISTANT KANDAHAR?


WHATEVER THE REASON, THEY NEED ME. I WILL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MY OWN TERMS.

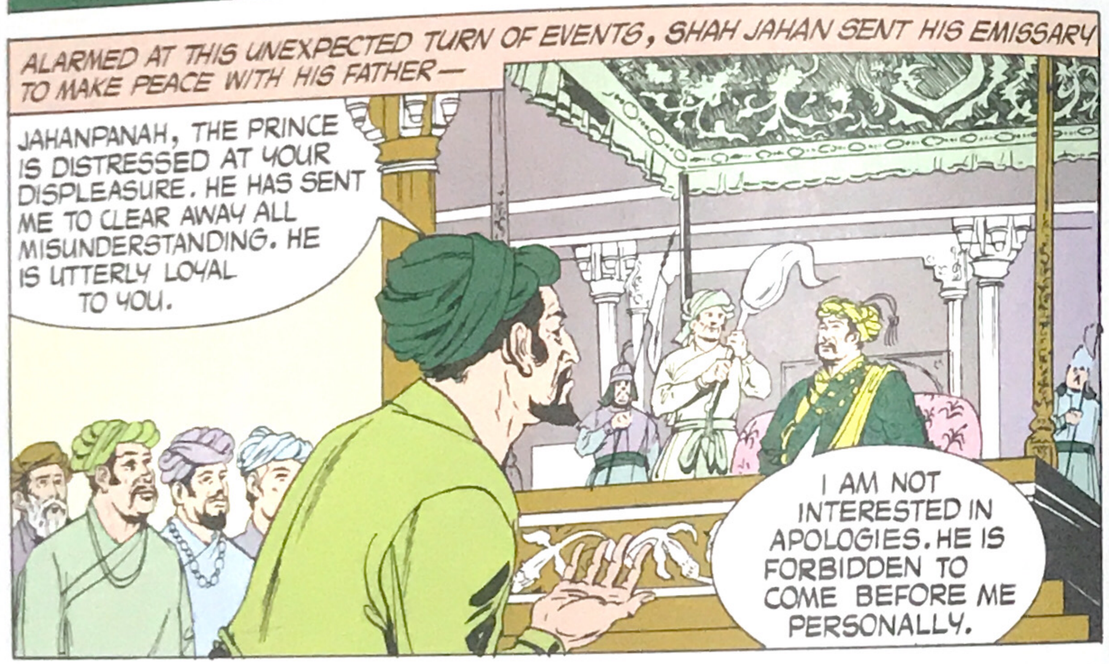
SHAH JAHAN SENT A MESSAGE TO JAHANGIR.
I AGREE TO GO TO KANDAHAR IF I AM GIVEN SUPREME COMMAND OF THE ARMY AND THE FORT OF RANTHAMBHOR AND THE ENTIRE PUNJAB.

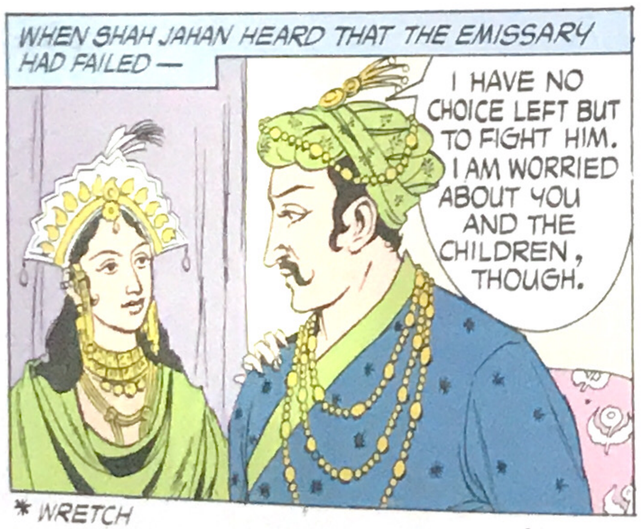
JAHANGIR WAS ENRAGED.
AFTER ALL THE LOVE I HAVE SHOWN FOR HIM AND THE FAVOURS I HAVE SHOWERED ON HIM, HE MAKES SUCH IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS!
HIS SUCCESSES HAVE GONE TO HIS HEAD. HE THINKS YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT HIM.


MUST SEND ANOTHER
<GENT MESSENGER
) PARVEZ TO HURRY.
UT HE IS SO FAR AWAY
IN BIHAR.
WHY NOT PUT SHAHRYAR IN COMMAND, JAHANPANAH?

I'LL HAVE TO DO THAT. PARVEZ WILL TAKE A LONG TIME TO GET HERE AND I AM NOT WELL ENOUGH TO GO MYSELF. IF ONLY SHAH JAHAN WERE MORE REASONABLE!
UNDUTIFUL SON! HE SHOULD BE PUNISHED! CONFISCATE HIS JAGIRS TO SHOW YOUR DIS-PLEASURE.

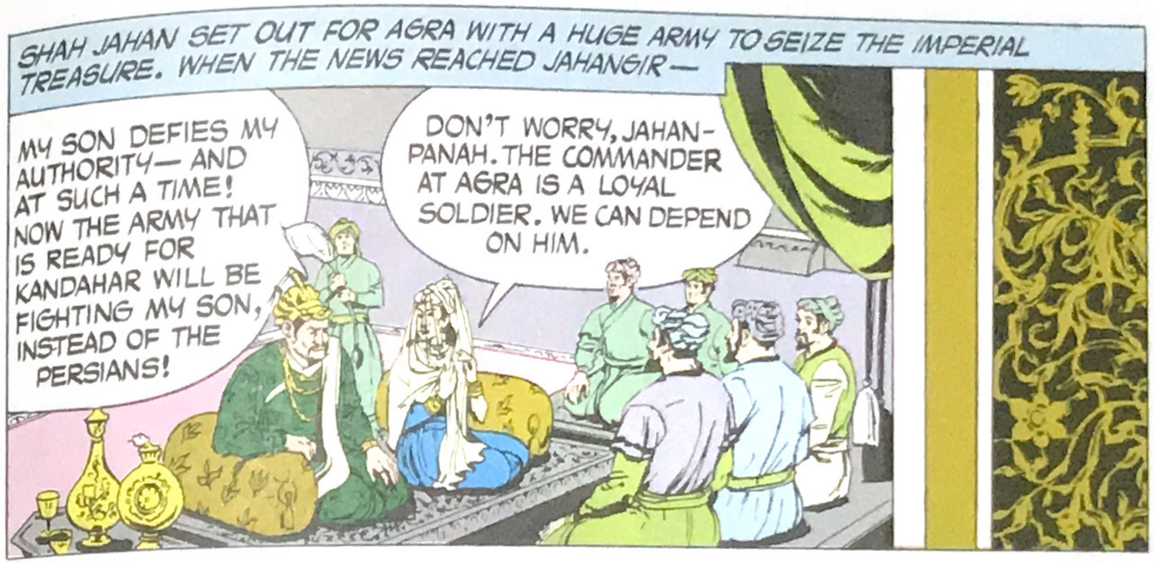
YES. THAT SHOULD BRING HIM TO HIS SENSES! FROM NOW ON HE WILL BE CALLED BE-DAULAT.*

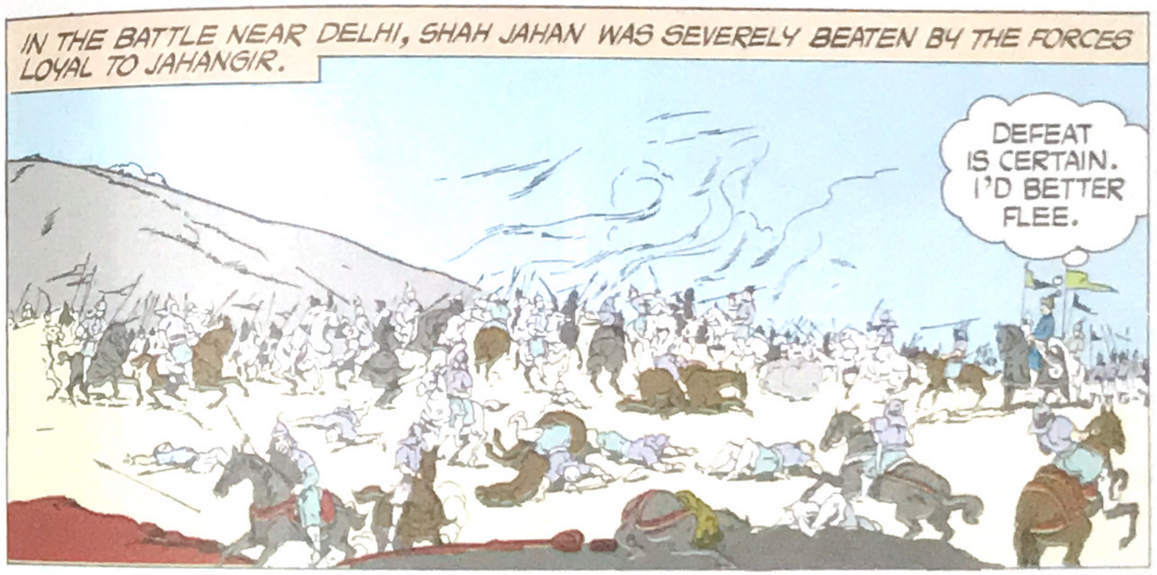

ALARMED AT THIS UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS, SHAH JAHAN SENT HIS EMISSARY TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIS FATHER—
JAHANPANAH, THE PRINCE IS DISTRESSED AT YOUR DISPLEASURE. HE HAS SENT ME TO CLEAR AWAY ALL MISUNDERSTANDING. HE IS UTTERLY LOYAL TO YOU.
I AM NOT INTERESTED IN APOLOGIES. HE IS FORBIDDEN TO COME BEFORE ME PERSONALLY.

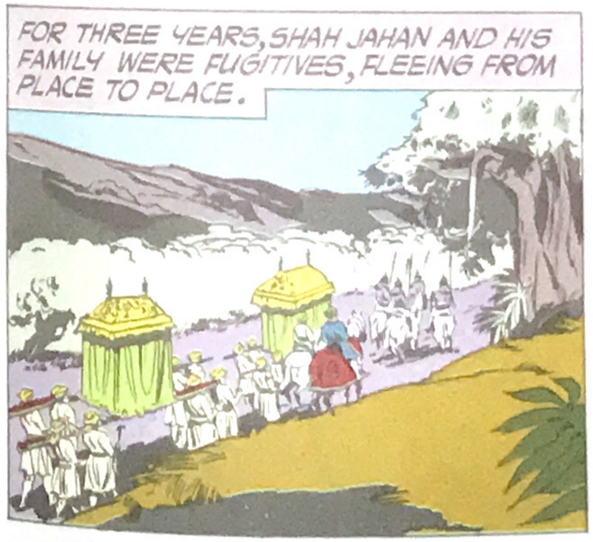

WHEN SHAH JAHAN HEARD THAT THE EMISSARY HAD FAILED —
I HAVE NO CHOICE LEFT BUT TO FIGHT HIM. I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND THE CHILDREN, THOUGH.

AS LONG AS WE ARE TOGETHER, NOTHING MATTERS.

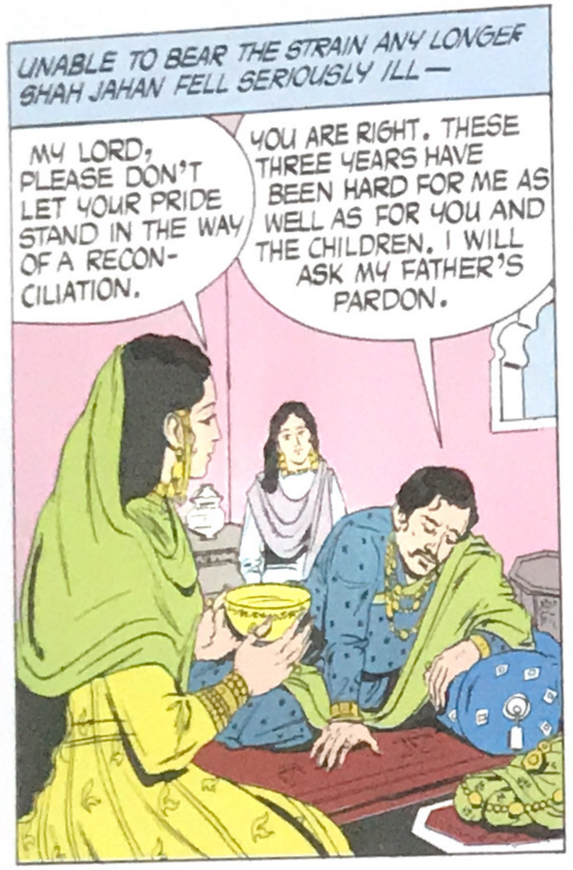
* WRETCH

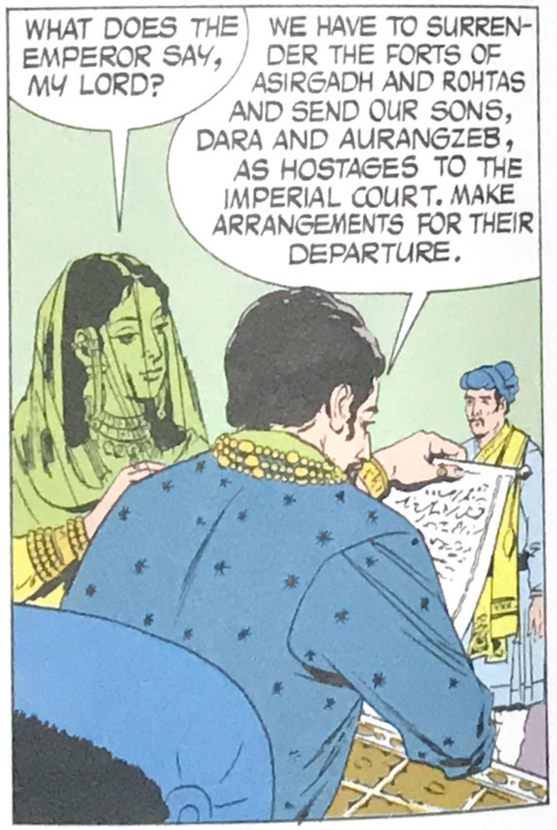

SHAH JAHAN SET OUT FOR AGRA WITH A HUGE ARMY TO SEIZE THE IMPERIAL TREASURE. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED JAHANGIR—
MY SON DEFIES MY AUTHORITY— AND AT SUCH A TIME! NOW THE ARMY THAT IS READY FOR KANDAHAR WILL BE FIGHTING MY SON, INSTEAD OF THE PERSIANS!
DON'T WORRY, JAHAN-PANAH. THE COMMANDER AT AGRA IS A LOYAL SOLDIER. WE CAN DEPEND ON HIM.

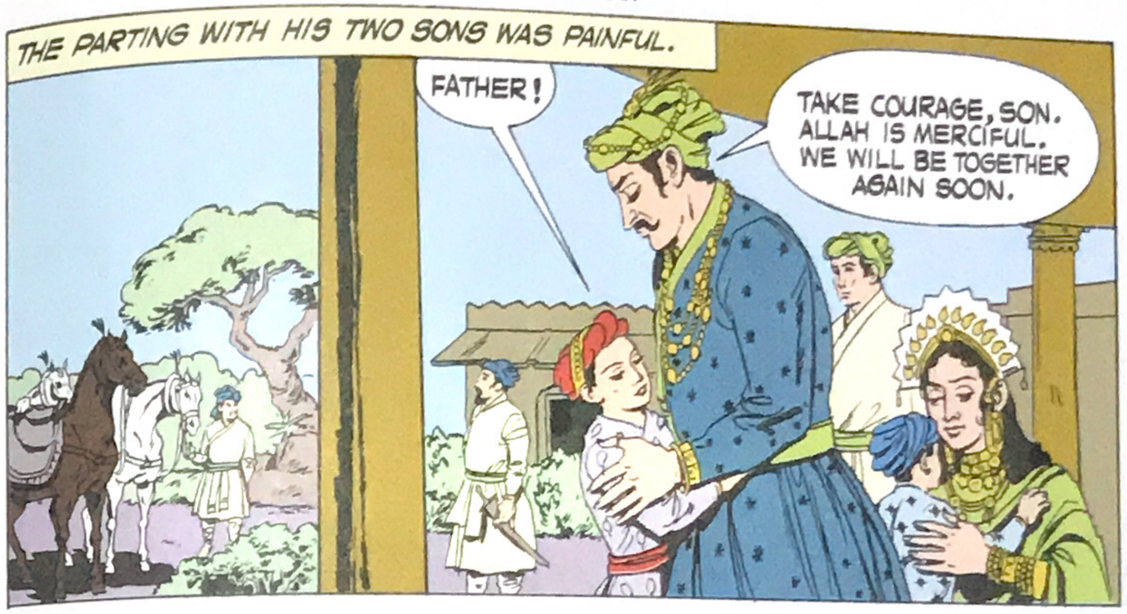

IN THE BATTLE NEAR DELHI, SHAH JAHAN WAS SEVERELY BEATEN BY THE FORCES LOYAL TO JAHANGIR.
DEFEAT IS CERTAIN. I'D BETTER FLEE.

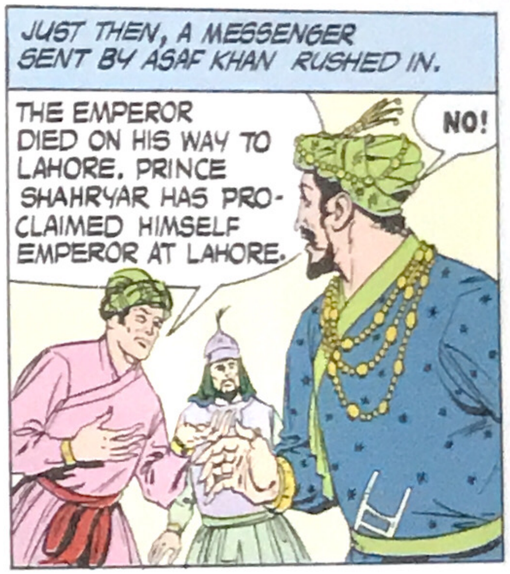

FOR THREE YEARS, SHAH JAHAN AND HIS FAMILY WERE FUGITIVES, FLEEING FROM PLACE TO PLACE.

SHALL WE REST HERE FOR A WHILE?
NO, DEAR. THE EMPEROR'S MEN ARE NOT FAR AWAY. WE'LL HAVE TO TRAVEL ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT.





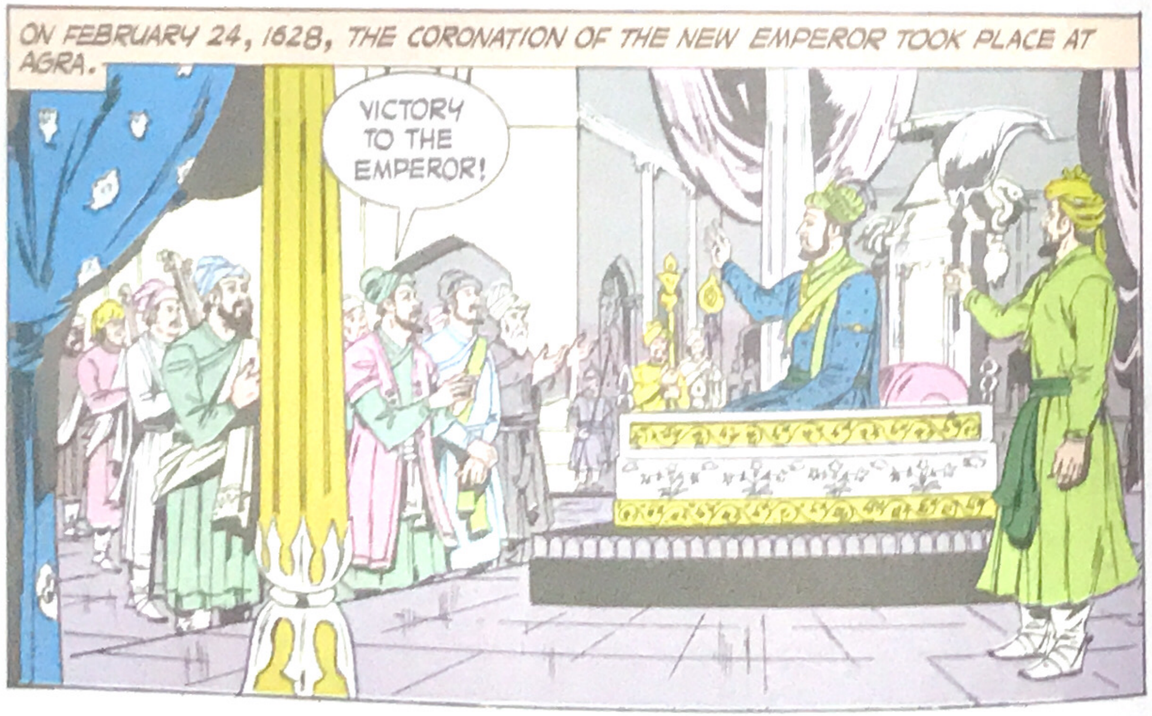


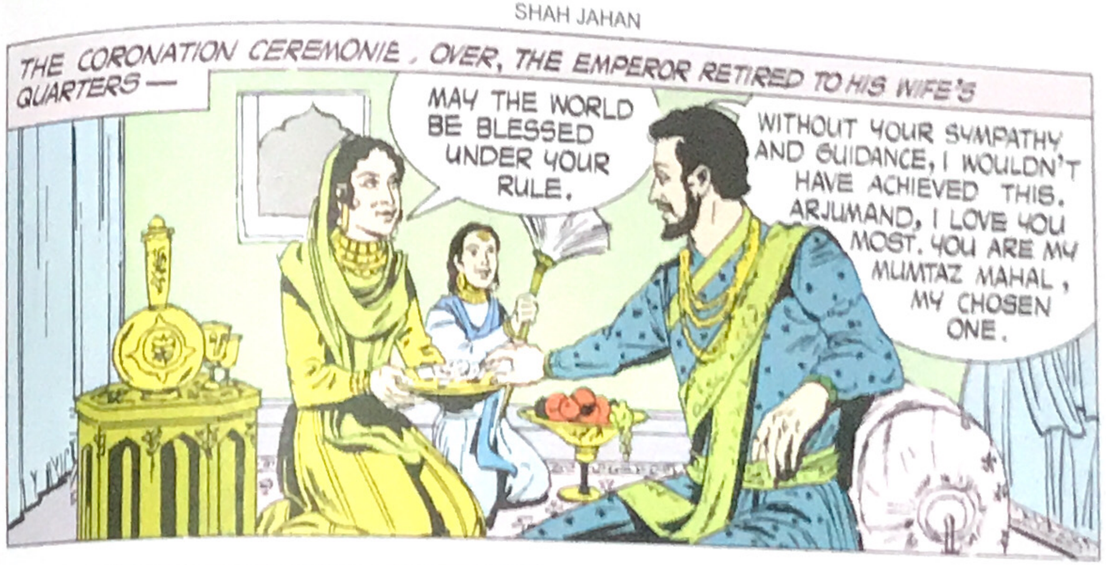


* PRINCE KHUSRAU HAD DIED IN 1622 AND PRINCE PARVEZ IN 1626

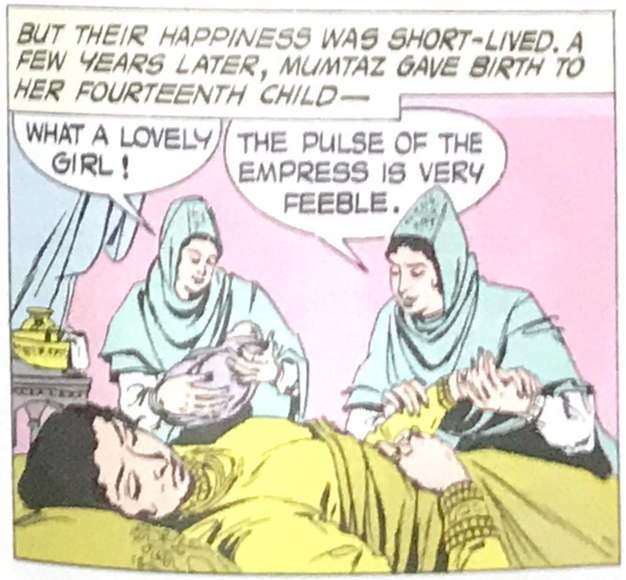
THE PRINCESS IS RIGHT. ASAF KHAN SAHAB WANTS YOU TO RUSH TO AGRA. AT THE MOMENT HE IS BUSY FIGHTING SHAHRYAR.
WE WILL START AT ONCE.

BEFORE SHAH JAHAN REACHED AGRA, ASAF KHAN HAD OVERCOME SHAHRYAR. SHAH JAHAN'S MARCH NOW WAS LIKE A VICTORY PROCESSION.

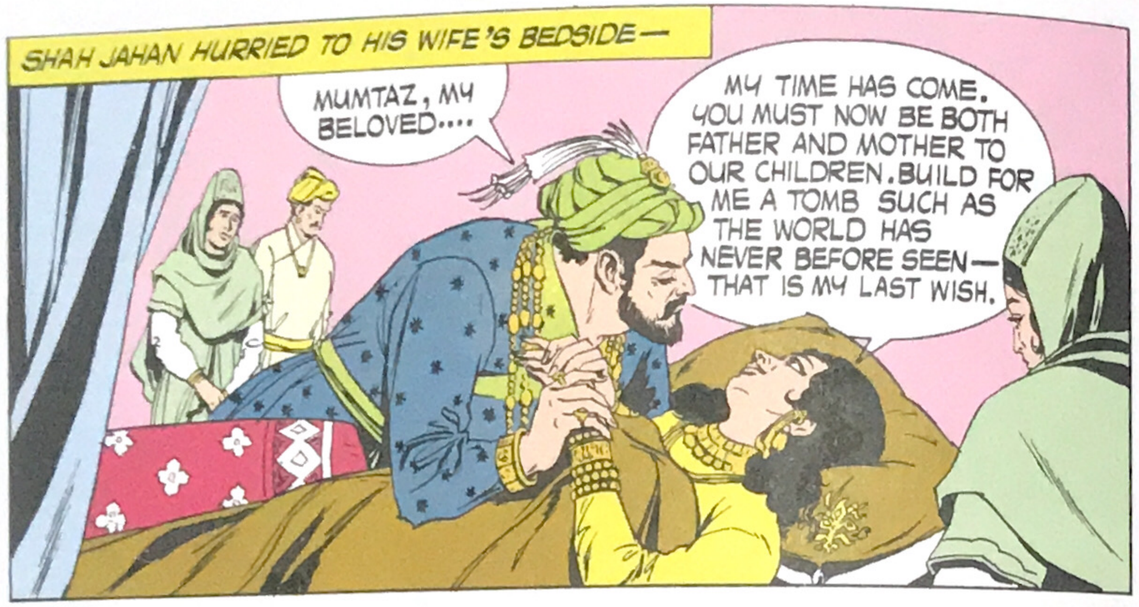

ON FEBRUARY 24, 1628, THE CORONATION OF THE NEW EMPEROR TOOK PLACE AT AGRA.
VICTORY TO THE EMPEROR!


THE CORONATION CEREMONIE, OVER, THE EMPEROR RETIRED TO HIS WIFE'S QUARTERS —
MAY THE WORLD BE BLESSED UNDER YOUR RULE.
WITHOUT YOUR SYMPATHY AND GUIDANCE, I WOULDN'T HAVE ACHIEVED THIS. ARJUMAND, I LOVE YOU MOST. YOU ARE MY MUMTAZ MAHAL, MY CHOSEN ONE.

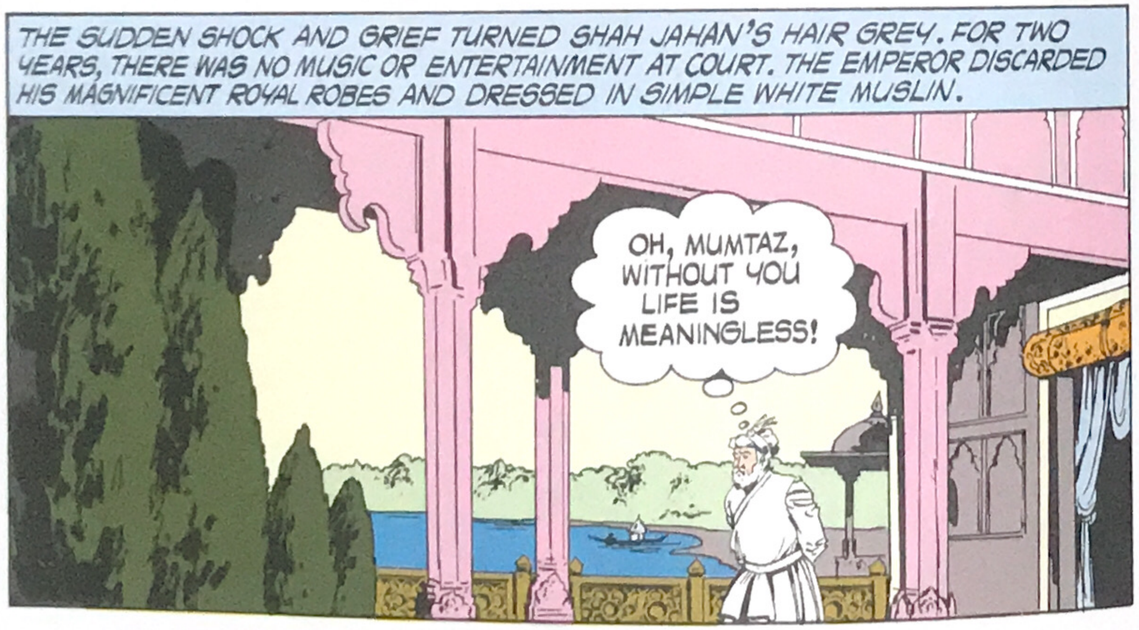
THREE WEEKS LATER, A GRAND FAMILY REUNION TOOK PLACE, WHEN ASAF KHAN ARRIVED WITH THE PRINCES, DARA AND AURANGZEB.

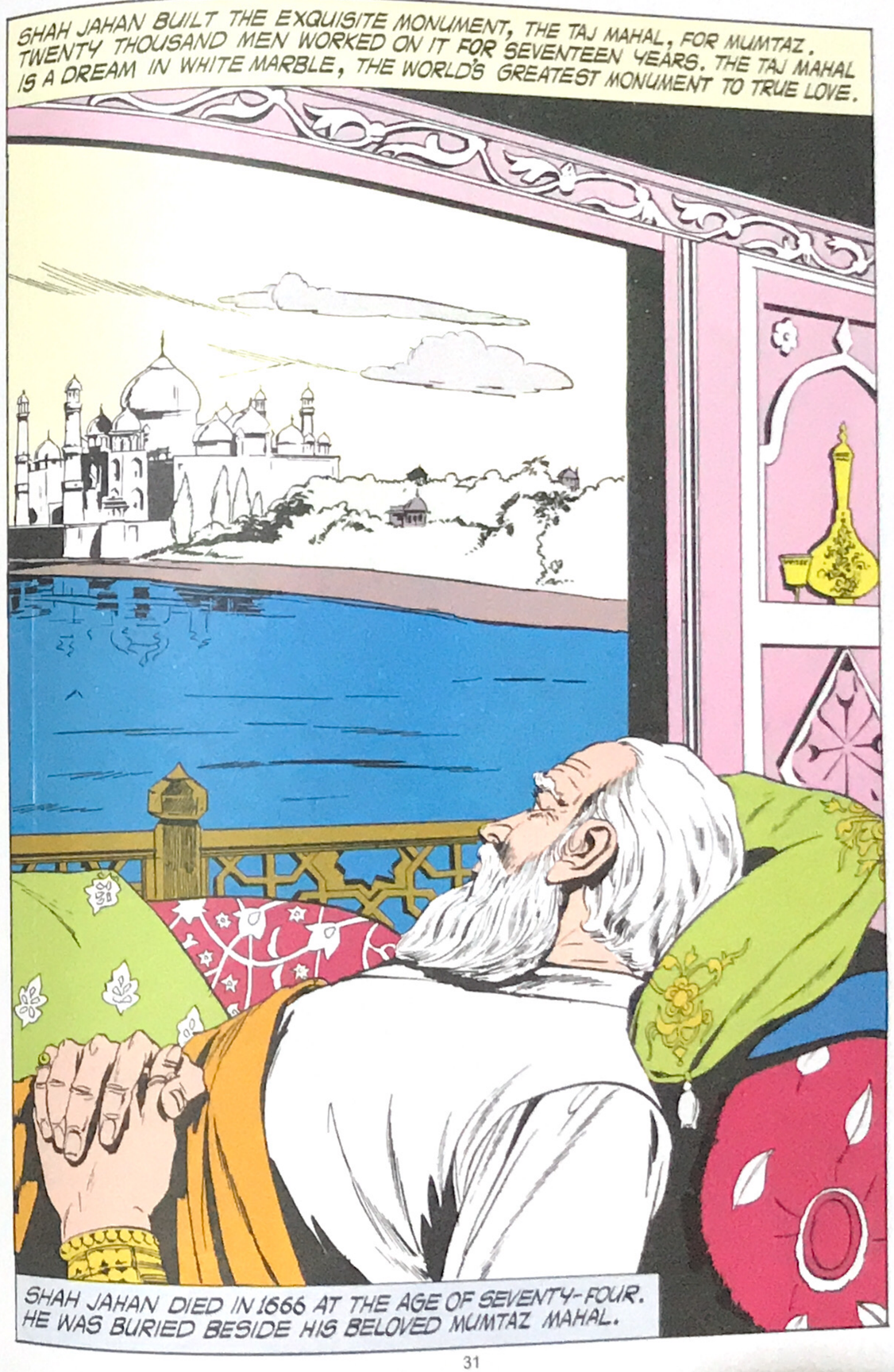

BUT THEIR HAPPINESS WAS SHORT-LIVED. A FEW YEARS LATER, MUMTAZ GAVE BIRTH TO HER FOURTEENTH CHILD—
WHAT A LOVELY GIRL!
THE PULSE OF THE EMPRESS IS VERY FEEBLE.

THE EMPRESS WON'T SURVIVE LONG!
INFORM THE EMPEROR! BE QUICK!


SHAH JAHAN HURRIED TO HIS WIFE'S BEDSIDE—
MUMTAZ, MY BELOVED....
MY TIME HAS COME. YOU MUST NOW BE BOTH FATHER AND MOTHER TO OUR CHILDREN. BUILD FOR ME A TOMB SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEFORE SEEN— THAT IS MY LAST WISH.

OH, MUMTAZ, MY BELOVED! I PROMISE!


THE SUDDEN SHOCK AND GRIEF TURNED SHAH JAHAN'S HAIR GREY. FOR TWO YEARS, THERE WAS NO MUSIC OR ENTERTAINMENT AT COURT. THE EMPEROR DISCARDED HIS MAGNIFICENT ROYAL ROBES AND DRESSED IN SIMPLE WHITE MUSLIN.
OH, MUMTAZ, WITHOUT YOU LIFE IS MEANINGLESS!


SHAH JAHAN BUILT THE EXQUISITE MONUMENT, THE TAJ MAHAL, FOR MUMTAZ. TWENTY THOUSAND MEN WORKED ON IT FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS. THE TAJ MAHAL IS A DREAM IN WHITE MARBLE, THE WORLD'S GREATEST MONUMENT TO TRUE LOVE.
SHAH JAHAN DIED IN 1666 AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY-FOUR. HE WAS BURIED BESIDE HIS BELOVED MUMTAZ MAHAL.